



Saturday January 17 1998

Abu Dhabi 0.8.50	Green 0.500	Qatar CR 1.00
Algeria 1.50	Hong Kong 1.50	Poland 1.50
Andorra 1.50	Italy 1.50	Portugal 1.50
Austria 1.50	Japan 1.50	Romania 1.50
Bahrain 1.50	Kenya 1.50	Saudi Arabia 1.50
Belgium 1.50	Latvia 1.50	Slovenia 1.50
Canada 1.50	Lithuania 1.50	Spain 1.50
Croatia 1.50	Malta 1.50	Sweden 1.50
Cyprus 1.50	Morocco 1.50	Switzerland 1.50
Czech Republic 1.50	Norway 1.50	Taiwan 1.50
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Finland 1.50	Romania 1.50	Yugoslavia 1.50
France 1.50	Saudi Arabia 1.50	
Germany 1.50	Slovenia 1.50	

# The Guardian

INTERNATIONAL  
Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix  
NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Hugo Young interviews Tony Blair

## Vision of our future

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This way Armageddon

## Can the cult set on mass suicide be stopped?

The Week page 17

Final frontier

## Henman back to his best in Sydney

The Week page 22



Sport for all, at last

## S Africa pitches in to fair play

Matthew Engel

THE rainbow nation gained one further touch of richness in its colour scheme yesterday when South Africa was, for the first time, represented in an international cricket match by a black man.

The fast bowler Makhaya Ntini, aged 20, took two crucial wickets to help South Africa to victory in a one-day game against New Zealand in Perth. He won widespread praise for his pace, accuracy, fielding and enthusiasm as he deputised for the national team's star Allan Donald.

Ntini made his debut eight years after the last team of English cricketing mercenaries, led by Mike Gatting, slunk away from South Africa, having failed to shore up cricket as played under the apartheid regime. Nelson Mandela was still in jail at the time, and Ntini was at school.

The breakthrough came 16 years after the first English rebel team, led by Graham Gooch, arrived in Pretoria and an official said that blacks were extremely welcome to play too. "They can do the fielding," he said.

In those days, whites generally believed that cricket was too complex for Africans, unaware that high-standard games had been played on stony, dusty tracks in the Eastern Cape and the Border (East London) area since the 19th century. Ntini's father played for Border in the old non-white competitions.

Since then, South African cricket has cleansed itself pretty thoroughly. President Mandela has praised the game for its commitment to development — in pointed contrast to rugby.

Three members of the Cape Coloured community had already appeared for South Africa, but no representative from the black majority, and pressure was building in some quarters for affirmative action. This was not a crucial match; Donald might have played if it had been.

However, Ntini's initial success gives the administrators breathing space. South Africa play in England this summer and Ntini's performance increases the likelihood that he will be in the team on merit.



Makhaya Ntini, the first black man to play for South Africa in an international cricket match

## UK 'ready to fight' Saddam

Countdown

Oct 29, 1997: Iraq bars Americans from weapons teams on its territory. Security Council condemns decision and the UN Special Commission (Unsc), set up after the Gulf war to eliminate Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, suspends operations.

Nov 3: Iraq warns it will shoot down U-2 spy planes flying over its territory.

Nov 20: Russia intervenes to persuade Saddam Hussein to back down in return for working to end sanctions.

Jan 12: Iraq bans Unsc team led by American Scott Ritter.

Jan 16: HMS Invincible ordered to Gulf to signal determination to use force.

come. But at the end of the day we have to have other options and that is why it makes sense for Invincible with its Harriers on board to go closer.

Diplomats insisted that there were no immediate plans for military action. "This is part of a continual policy of signalling to Saddam that we will use diplomatic efforts backed up by the force," said one well-placed source.

"Sending the carrier wasn't a spur-of-the-moment decision. Both the US and the UK decided that once this crisis started we would take a steady stream of steps in continually signal military resolve. But we're not going to be bombing Iraq over the weekend."

Military analysts pointed out that if immediate action were being contemplated it would be much quicker to deploy RAF Tornado bombers, a few of which are already patrolling southern Iraq from bases in Saudi Arabia. These would have to obtain permission from an Arab host country for punitive raids against Iraqi targets. In the

current climate this would not be forthcoming.

The next steps involve a visit to Baghdad on Monday by Richard Butler, the Australian diplomat who heads the UN inspection mission, Unsc.

As well as blocking Mr Ritter's team, Iraq has barred all Unsc inspectors from visiting several dozen sites deemed "sensitive" by Baghdad, including many of President Saddam's palaces.

Mr Butler is then expected to report back to the UN Security Council, which is likely to issue another in a series of resolutions condemning Iraq and demanding its compliance. He is also likely to consider reconfiguring the teams to address Iraqi complaints of US and British dominance.

The Russian defence minister, Igor Sergeev, offered his country's surveillance aircraft to take the place of US and British inspectors.

Invincible expects to pass through the Suez Canal this weekend and reach the Gulf about five days later.

Carrier-borne aircraft, in this case six RAF Harrier GR7s and six Royal Navy Sea Harriers, can operate independently alongside the US navy's task force. President Saddam knows this and is more likely to take seriously the threat of force issued by Washington and London in support of UN inspectors.

The RAF GR7s carry highly accurate laser-guided bombs. However, without the Saudi-based Tornados, these could be used only with US aircraft to illuminate their targets.

The Tornados have their own self-contained laser bombing system.

A second British carrier, HMS Illustrious, will sail from Portsmouth on Monday to relieve Invincible if the crisis drags on.

Marth Woolcott, page 2



The Sundance Pig, back in custody after week on run

## Tamworth One cops it in copse, ending great escape

Geoffrey Gibbs

AFTER more than a week on the run the Sundance Pig was not going to come quietly. His partner might have been captured, but the porker that got away was determined to enjoy his last moments of freedom.

For hours again yesterday he frustrated police officers, RSPCA inspectors, dog handlers and a watching army of 100 journalists and camera crews by hiding in a dense thicket of hrambles at Tetbury Hill, Malmesbury, in Wiltshire.

Flushed out at last by a spaniel named Pops, the fugitive scampered across a field to a copse before turning to face the inevitable tranquilliser gun.

Even then he was not going to make it easy. Twice the anaesthetic-laden dart bounced off his hide. But as RSPCA inspector Mike Harley fired for a third time the pig's movements slowed.

A "snout grabber" was placed over his head to restrain his movements. The pig's days on the run were over.

Last night the youthful young Ginger Tamworth boar, who escaped from the town's slaughterhouse with a female companion, was resting in a veterinary hospital's recovery pen. "It's an ordinary healthy pig," said Mr Harley. "I am very glad that we caught it today and that it is a happy ending."

Vets and the Daily Mail, which now claims ownership of the two pigs, were taking no chances that an animal described by police as "cunning and devious" would repeat his escape.

Sundance — groggy but back on his feet — was being held in a chained and padlocked pen behind 6ft high gates. Vet Fran Baird expected the boar to make a full recovery but said it would remain at the hospital for a day or so.

Once recovered the boar will be taken to the Langley Wild Animal Rescue Sanctuary, near Chippenham, where owners Kevin and Debbie Stinchcombe are already looking after Sundance's companion — the pig formerly known as Butch, now renamed Tammy.

The drama, which warranted the close attention of American TV crews as well as the massed ranks of the British media, began on Thursday last week when council road-sweeper Arnoldo D'Julio was delivering three Ginger Tamworth boars to Newman's slaughterhouse in Malmesbury.

As the trailer in which they were being carried was opened, two of the animals made off in front of stunned

slaughterhouse staff. They wriggled under the perimeter fence, reed over a field and swam across the swollen river Avon.

Their exploits made them a cause célèbre in Malmesbury and far beyond. Radio 5 Live devoted a morning phone-in session to the issue. ITN sent its helicopter to try to find the pigs, and the King's Arms Hotel, in Malmesbury, did its bit by displaying a board urging: "Save the Tamworth Two. Eat Beef on the Bone."

Leader comment, page 2

"I've got a very clear idea of the type of the system we should have in the end — yes." To my remark that his categorical certainty about the big picture was something I'd noticed in every talk we'd had for the last four years, he laughed jocularly, with only the faintest hint of denial

Britain

World News

Sport

The Week

9 770261 307866

4 Litre Petrol or 2.5 Litre Turbo Diesel Engine

On-board Compass

Heated Rear Windscreen & Mirrors

Two Airbags



Alleged victim in tears gives evidence

# Girl 'raped previously'

Duncan Campbell  
Crime Correspondent

**T**HE 10-year-old girl alleged to have been raped and indecently assaulted by classmates during a school lunch break broke down in tears yesterday as she was asked about her past. She denied wanting to be touched by the boys or playing with them when the incident took place.

Two 10-year-old boys are charged with raping the girl in the boys' lavatory at a west London primary school in May last year. The same two boys and two others, aged 10 and 11, are charged with indecent assault. All four pleaded not guilty.

Giving evidence by video for the second day at the Old Bailey, the girl told Steven Kay QC, defending, that she had been born in Jamaica and had lived there in her early years with her grandmother and aunt because her mother was in England.

She said a neighbour in Jamaica, aged about 30, had taken her and other girls to

his house and had raped her. Other men had taken part in the sexual assaults, she added.

She had been happy to come to England and go to school where she played football with the boys. She told Mr Kay that once when she had gone swimming with other girls, she had been called a lesbian. "People spread rumours at school," she said of the incident.

The girl, who during one period of cross-examination was playing with a plastic puzzle, accepted that once she had been excluded from school for four days for fighting. She said one of the boys had called her names and he had also been excluded.

Asked if she had sworn at a police officer who had given a talk at the school about how to behave, she replied: "I wasn't swearing at him. My mum told me never to swear. I just said one word and I'm not allowed to say what it is."

She agreed she had had a boyfriend in her class but denied asking the accused to be her boyfriend. She said she had not played in the boys' lavatories. She added she had not known how to read when she first arrived and had gone

into the boys' lavatories by mistake.

Asked by Mr Kay about the alleged rape and assault, she said: "I tried to scream but they covered my mouth."

"You wanted them to touch you, didn't you?" asked Mr Kay.

"No," she replied.

"You were playing with them?"

"No."

Following further questions, she said: "I told you all the answers and I can't remember any more. I don't want to remember any more."

"Have you been told off at school for making stories up that someone had hurt you?" asked Mr Kay.

"I'm not making up the story because I wouldn't want [her relative] to get hurt and I wouldn't want the other boys to get hurt. Can you leave me alone?"

On a number of occasions, the girl broke down and the court rose. The judge, Mrs Justice Bracewell, told the girl that Mr Kay had asked her the questions but she would ensure there were not too many.

The case continues on Monday.

## Spencer loses privacy laws battle

Clare Dyer  
Legal Correspondent

**E**ARL Spencer's attempt to force Britain to enact tougher privacy laws failed yesterday, when his case was thrown out by the European Commission of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

The commission ruled inadmissible a claim by Princess Diana's brother and his former wife, Victoria, that the Government's failure to protect his family from the media breached articles 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which guarantees "respect for private and family life".

Reasons for the decision will not be released for a fortnight. But the rationale is expected to be either that the Spencers should have brought proceedings for breach of confidence in Britain before resorting to Strasbourg, or that the English law of privacy is a sufficient remedy to fulfil Britain's obligations under the convention.

The commission might also have been influenced by the fact that the Spencers had put themselves and their children in the public eye with a picture spread in Hello magazine. Earl Spencer has also spoken publicly about his marriage difficulties.

Strasbourg rules require applicants to exhaust any legal remedies available in their home country before bringing a claim at the commission. So the claim could have been snuffed by the Spencers' failure to sue the tabloids they accuse of infringing their pri-



Earl Spencer, who lost privacy laws fight at the European Commission of Human Rights

vacuity for breach of confidence. Alternatively, the commission might have accepted the Government's argument that the availability and scope of the breach of confidence remedy, which judges are developing into a privacy law, meets Britain's obligations. Strasbourg case law lays strong emphasis on the competing right of freedom of expression as an essential safeguard in a democracy.

A spokeswoman for the Press Complaints Commission said its chairman, Lord Wakeham, had decided not to comment on the outcome of the case. But human rights lawyers were not surprised it was thrown out.

At a three-hour hearing in private before 19 commissioners, the earl's lawyers claimed article 8 was violated by accounts of Countess Spencer's eating disorders and alcoholism three years ago, and by publication of a photograph of her without her knowledge and consent at the clinic where she was treated.

The Spencers' lawyers argued the law of confidence was not a sufficient safeguard, be-

cause there was no way the subject of an article could learn that publication was planned so as to stop it. They also claimed there was no realistic prospect of getting compensation from the newspaper afterwards.

But government lawyers claimed the couple could have made a claim for breach of confidence against the newspapers, as they did against two friends who had leaked information to the tabloids.

A spokeswoman for Earl Spencer said he would not be commenting on the decision.

## Blair to apologise for 'Sunday shootings'

John Mullan  
Ireland Correspondent

**T**ONY Blair is to apologise on Wednesday for the events of Bloody Sunday, when the army shot dead 14 unarmed anti-internment marchers in Londonderry in what proved to be a turning point in the Troubles. The killings, on January 30 1972, led to a strengthening of the IRA.

The Prime Minister, who spoke to Bertie Ahern, the Taoiseach, for 15 minutes yesterday, also plans to announce to the Commons that there will be a partial inquiry into the shootings. A senior judge is expected to be asked to review the evidence, including new testimony forwarded by the Irish government last year. It threw fresh doubt on the conclusions of the Widgery report, which in effect exonerated the army.

An apology and a limited review would fall short of campaigners' demands — supported by the Irish government — for a fresh judicial investigation. Mr Blair may reconsider after further talks with Mr Ahern.

Norman Cosgrave, the chairman of the Labour Party backbench Northern Ireland committee, said he believed a full inquiry was being delayed by senior figures in the Ministry of Defence. They are said to be worried about its impact on the army's morale.

Nationalists were enraged in 1972 when Lord Widgery's report found that the soldiers had been fired on first and were telling the truth when they said they had fired in self-defence. It led to a new rift in relations between Whitehall and Dublin.

Unionists do not want the investigation reopened. Reg Empey, an Ulster Unionist negotiator at Stormont, demanded that Mr Blair also announce an inquiry into events leading to the gun-running trial of 1970.

## PM's secret box of tricks stolen

Anne Perkins  
Political Correspondent

**A**N EMBARRASSED Whitehall last night confirmed that a black box for sending secret messages between the Prime Minister and the security services had

been stolen from the Cabinet Office.

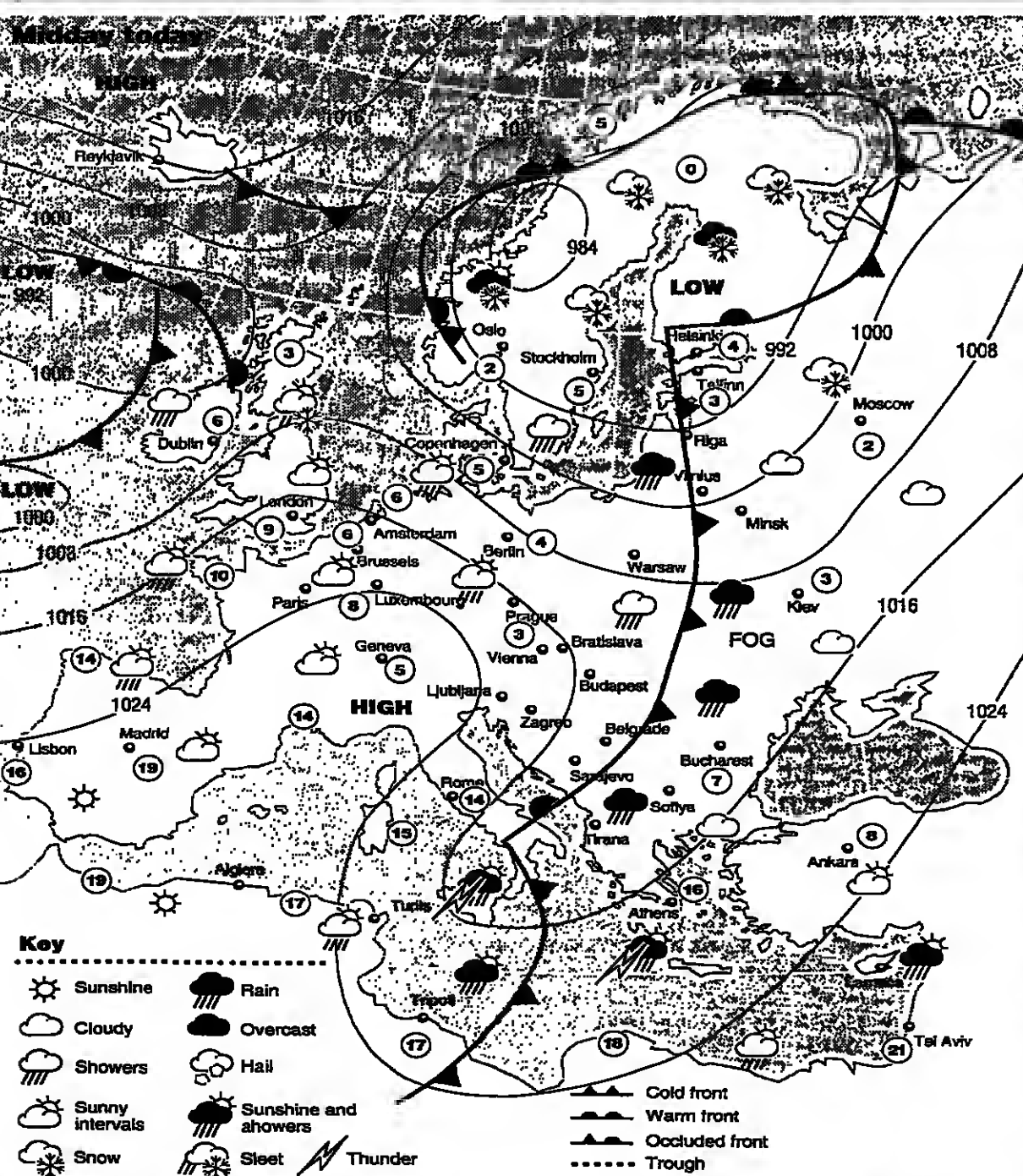
A spokeswoman would only say of the scramble, the size of a video recorder: "An Internet encryption device has been reported missing." She said there were no security implications.

The theft from the office in

heavily-guarded Downing Street is thought to have taken place over Christmas. Scotland Yard confirmed that a investigation was under way.

The device protects computer communications between Downing Street, MI5 and MI6 and other Whitehall departments.

### The weather in Europe



### Forecast for the cities

City	Temp	Wind	Weather
London	10	SW 10	Cloudy
Edinburgh	8	W 10	Cloudy
Birmingham	12	SW 10	Cloudy
Manchester	11	SW 10	Cloudy
Cardiff	10	SW 10	Cloudy
Belfast	9	SW 10	Cloudy
Stockholm	10	SW 10	Cloudy
Oslo	10	SW 10	Cloudy
Paris	10	SW 10	Cloudy
Brussels	10	SW 10	Cloudy
Amsterdam	10	SW 10	Cloudy
Warsaw	10	SW 10	Cloudy
Berlin	10	SW 10	Cloudy
Moscow	10	SW 10	Cloudy
St. Petersburg	10	SW 10	Cloudy
Stockholm	10	SW 10	Cloudy
Oslo	10	SW 10	Cloudy
Paris	10	SW 10	Cloudy
Brussels	10	SW 10	Cloudy
Amsterdam	10	SW 10	Cloudy
Warsaw	10	SW 10	Cloudy
Berlin	10	SW 10	Cloudy
Moscow	10	SW 10	Cloudy
St. Petersburg	10	SW 10	Cloudy

### Around the world

City	Temp	Wind	Weather
London	10	SW 10	Cloudy
Edinburgh	8	W 10	Cloudy
Birmingham	12	SW 10	Cloudy
Manchester	11	SW 10	Cloudy
Cardiff	10	SW 10	Cloudy
Belfast	9	SW 10	Cloudy
Stockholm	10	SW 10	Cloudy
Oslo	10	SW 10	Cloudy
Paris	10	SW 10	Cloudy
Brussels	10	SW 10	Cloudy
Amsterdam	10	SW 10	Cloudy
Warsaw	10	SW 10	Cloudy
Berlin	10	SW 10	Cloudy
Moscow	10	SW 10	Cloudy
St. Petersburg	10	SW 10	Cloudy
Stockholm	10	SW 10	Cloudy
Oslo	10	SW 10	Cloudy
Paris	10	SW 10	Cloudy
Brussels	10	SW 10	Cloudy
Amsterdam	10	SW 10	Cloudy
Warsaw	10	SW 10	Cloudy
Berlin	10	SW 10	Cloudy
Moscow	10	SW 10	Cloudy
St. Petersburg	10	SW 10	Cloudy

### European weather outlook

It will be very mild in most parts. Finland and western Norway will have some heavy rain with showers and snow. Snow and sleet showers will be restricted to northern Sweden and Lapland only. Max temps ranging from 6C in the north to 6C in the south.

**Low Countries, Germany, Austria, Switzerland:**

Heavy rain will clear Bavaria and Switzerland during the morning to leave sunshine and blustery showers for the rest of the day. The west will have the best sunshine. Max temps ranging from 3C in the north to 6C in the south.

**France:**

Eastern parts will see a little rain at first but most places will have a fine and dry day. Cloud will increase in the west again later. Max temps 6C in Alsace, 13C in the Dordogne.

**Italy:**

The Mediterranean coasts and the Alps will be notably fine and pleasantly warm, but the north-west will become showery later. Max temps 10C on the Meseta, 19C on the Costa del Sol.

**Greece:**

Greece and the southern half of the country will be dry and wet, with frequent rain with scattered thunderstorms. Northern parts will be much drier with sunny intervals. Max temps ranging from 11C in Athens to 19C in Palermo.

**Spain:**

Although there may be a few bright spots near Athens to start, heavy rain with scattered thunderstorms are likely everywhere later. Max temp around 16C.

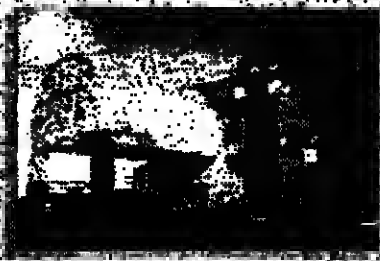
### Television and radio — Saturday

**BBC 1**

8.30am News and Weather, 8.30am Children's, 9.00am News and Weather, 9.30am News and Weather, 10.00am News and Weather, 10.30am News and Weather, 11.00am News and Weather, 11.30am News and Weather, 12.00pm News and Weather, 12.30pm News and Weather, 1.00pm News and Weather, 1.30pm News and Weather, 2.00pm News and Weather, 2.30pm News and Weather, 3.00pm News and Weather, 3.30pm News and Weather, 4.00pm News and Weather, 4.30pm News and Weather, 5.00pm News and Weather, 5.30pm News and Weather, 6.00pm News and Weather, 6.30pm News and Weather, 7.00pm News and Weather, 7.30pm News and Weather, 8.00pm News and Weather, 8.30pm News and Weather, 9.00pm News and Weather, 9.30pm News and Weather, 10.00pm News and Weather, 10.30pm News and Weather, 11.00pm News and Weather, 11.30pm News and Weather, 12.00am News and Weather, 12.30am News and Weather, 1.00am News and Weather, 1.30am News and Weather, 2.00am News and Weather, 2.30am News and Weather, 3.00am News and Weather, 3.30am News and 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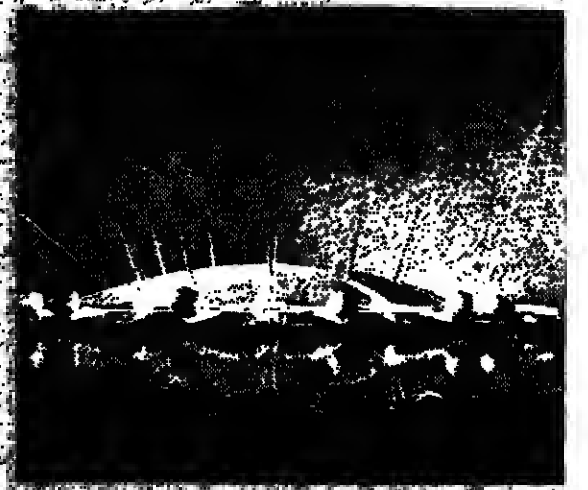
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Millennium Dome  
£758 million

## Dome rises as axe falls again on arts cash

## Gowrie hits out at £1.5m cuts for theatre and ballet

Dan Gleister  
Arts Correspondent

**G**REENWICH Theatre is a small repertory theatre run with an annual subsidy of £210,000. A mile and a half away, on a former British Gas site, a dome is rising — the glowing centrepiece of Britain's millennium celebrations.

But while the Greenwich dome will go ahead at an estimated cost of £758 million, Greenwich Theatre is expected to close at the end of March because of a cut in government funding to the arts.

As Peter Mandelson, Minister without Portfolio, justified spending four times the Arts Council's total annual fund-

ing on the Millennium Dome by comparing its unifying potential with that of the death of Princess Diana, the departing Arts Council chairman, Lord Gowrie, lambasted the Government's approach to funding the arts, calling it "niggardly and anachronistic".

Mr Mandelson said: "The celebration will enable people to come together to share something, something people felt in the wake of Princess Diana's death. There are few opportunities to do this."

But Matthew Francis, artistic director of the Greenwich Theatre, said: "It cannot escape our attention that £750 million is being found from somewhere to build the dome and they cannot find £210,000 to fund us. The dome is very big, very mad and very expensive."

Lord Gowrie, who is due to step down at the end of April, said: "Politicians of all complexions keep running around saying how wonderful the arts are, and how much they want to support the creative economies. But you have to put a little bit of money where your mouth is. And even if you don't put any money in, you shouldn't take it away."

He was speaking as the Arts Council unveiled its annual grant allocation after a £1.5 million government cut. Lord Gowrie called the reduction to £184.6 million "extraordinarily damaging and foolish".

That cut, which represents 0.8 per cent of Arts Council income, has been passed on to its clients. These include the regional arts boards and companies such as the Royal Shakespeare Company, the Royal National Theatre, the South Bank Centre, the Royal Ballet and the Royal Opera.

Greenwich Theatre receives its £210,000 from the London Arts Board, which in turn receives £14,154,000 from the Arts Council. Lord Gowrie said he hoped "the chance would not be full of poison" for his successor, Granada chief Gerry Robinson.



'To many arts bodies the lottery has represented a curse rather than a blessing'

Lord Gowrie (left)  
Arts Council

Although the Arts Council has tried to cushion the blow by taking £1 million from its reserve funds and cutting £500,000 from its own costs,

there are casualties. Lord Gowrie described the annual allocations as "prudent but not profitable".

While many companies

received standstill funding, which represents a cut in real terms, the dance company Adventures in Motion Pictures lost its £140,000 subsidy. Lord

Gowrie said that the company, which has achieved success with its production of Swan Lake featuring a corps de ballet of male swans, was now working on commercially backed productions. It should, he said, be a model for all small companies.

The Royal Ballet lost £100,000 of its annual subsidy and will receive £5,455,000 next year. The Royal Opera was cut by £39,970 to £7,984,000. The South Bank Centre, which is still awaiting a decision on its £135 million redevelopment scheme, received a cut in its annual subsidy of £112,144. Birmingham Royal Ballet saw its annual subsidy reduced by £54,720 to £5.4 million.

Lord Gowrie said that the arrival of the National Lottery three years ago had proved a mixed blessing for the arts world.

"To many arts bodies the lottery has represented a curse rather than a blessing," he said. "The present government is not alone in having created the crisis. It was tremendously welcome to have this inflow for capital spending from the lottery, but we are now in the worst revenue crisis of my adult lifetime."

"It has been a great problem to have something so necessary and so overdue happen and to have it spoiled by so niggardly sums of money."

Adrian Noble, artistic director of the Royal Shakespeare Company, which received standstill funding, said: "I suppose that we should consider ourselves rewarded, by not getting an actual cut. Time is clearly running out, as shown by the likely closure of a number of excellent smaller venues."

Matthew Francis, of the Greenwich Theatre criticised the management culture seeping into the arts.

He said: "Arts funding has fallen into the hands of consultants and bureaucrats. Arts funding is run by people who think they are good at strategy. It's rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic. It's the politics of the open lifeboat."

Lord Gowrie is to step down from the Arts Council at the end of April, a year earlier than the first task for the new chairman will be the appointment of a secretary general to implement the programme of reform of the organisation called for by the Government.

Leader comment, page 8

## Mandelson puts his faith in a unifying edifice

Owen Bowcott and Madeleine Bunting  
on what will be under the Teflon canopy

**T**HE experience will cost you around £15. Walk under the Teflon-coated, fibre-glass canopy of the Millennium Dome and the exhibitions — interspersed with restaurants and cafes — will stretch away to left and right around a central show ring.

This is a first glimpse inside the 160 ft high structure which Peter Mandelson, Minister without Portfolio, believes should unite people in the way the nation was united by the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

His ambitious plans for national renewal and spiritual reflection are revealed, along with a preliminary architectural outline of what will actually be inside the £758 million scheme being erected on industrial wasteland at Greenwich.

New features being finalised include a cable car ride over the Thames and re-landscaped water defences, incorporating a beach for picnics and spawning grounds for sea bass and Dover sole.

With controversy focusing on the place of Christianity within the dome, Mr Mandelson spelled out in an interview with the Guardian what he saw as the spiritual significance of the millennium.

Referring to a survey by the developers, he said: "People thought this was a really

special event, to pass from one millennium to the next, an exciting thing in people's lives. And they thought it should be marked properly."

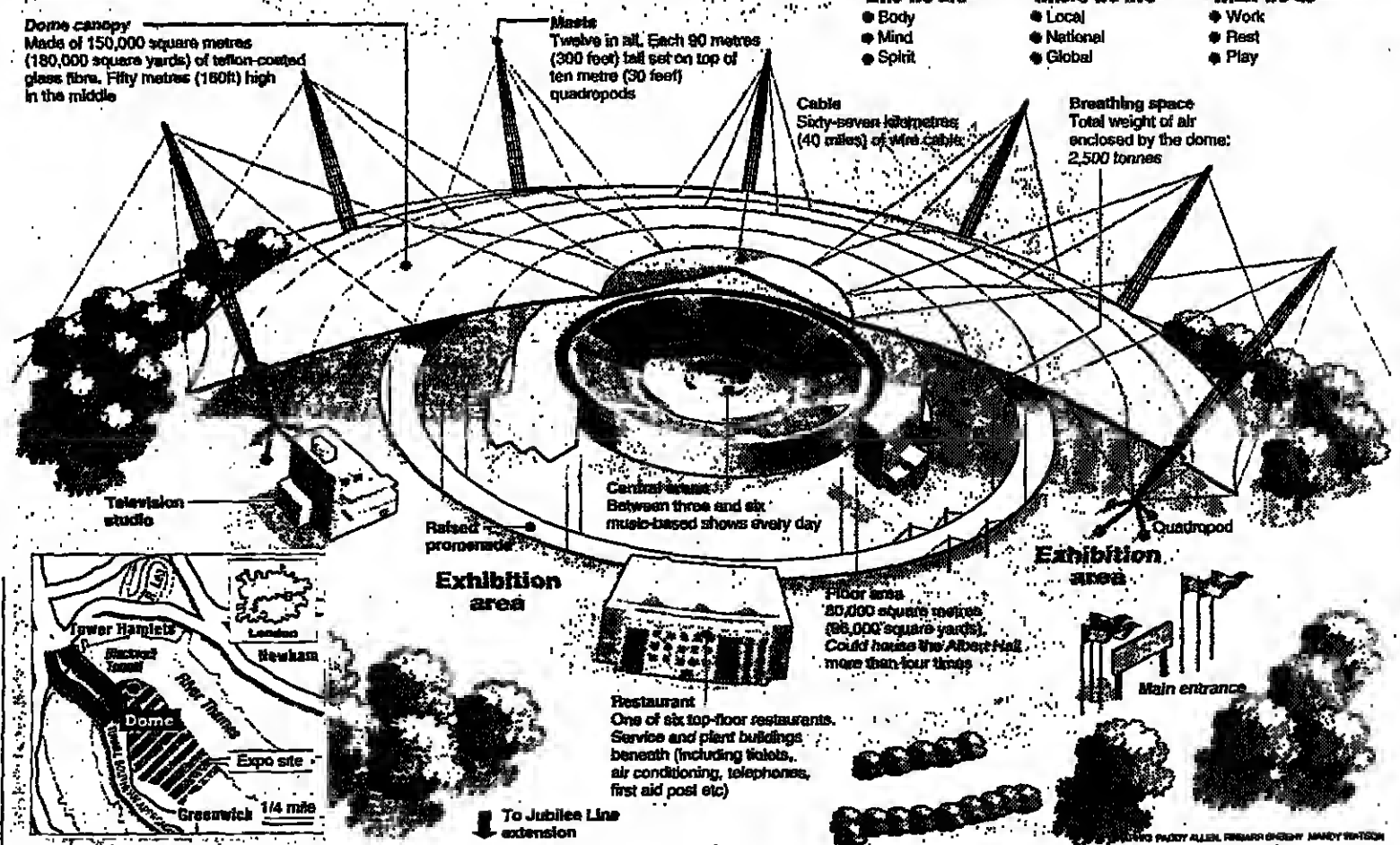
"People feel atomised, fragmented and set apart from one another. They feel that the community spirit of the country has gone, diminished in recent years. The celebration will enable people to come together to share something, something people felt in the wake of Princess Diana's death... I'm not suggesting the dome will start us on a more upward course — but it might help."

Most of the exhibits being prepared for the New Millennium Experience Company are still at a conceptual stage. Indeed, so little has previously been revealed that the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee last month described the project, intended to attract 12 million visitors during the year 2000, as "not so much a journey through time, as... a journey into the unknown".

Mr Mandelson conceded that the creative process was "by no means completed" and that fixing the contents had been his highest priority in the last six months.

"You don't show the rushes of your film before its final edit to the critics because they are going to... pick holes in something which is not completed," he added.

## Inside the dome the plan so far



## Mandelson's Dome thoughts

**August 1997:** "Clare Short criticising the dome: 'She is not rocking the boat. Her comments were made before the election. The government has changed, the project has changed, and the whole cabinet is now fully supportive of the project, which is going to be a tremendous success'."

**December 1997:** "The contents of the Millennium Experience will attract people of all ages, although I expect that playing surfball, the 21st century sport, will have an especial appeal to young people."

**January 1998:** "The Millennium is a Christian anniversary but it is also a secular, national event."

**Herbert Morrison, Peter Mandelson's grandfather, who was the driving force behind the 1951 Festival of Britain:** "This is the sort of madness which has put us on the map and is going to keep us there."

"All you will be doing is sparking off questions you are not in a position to answer."

Another area of concern has been sponsorship, which has been sub-contracted to Mark McCormack's International Management Group. Promises of £120 million are said to have been collected — only £30 million short of the

sum required. There are currently negotiations with supermarket chains and a car manufacturer.

No firm has, however, yet signed the deal. Companies want to see whether the contents justify their multi-million pound investments. The publicity launch of the dome's exhibitions — on which confidence in its future now de-

pends — is due before the end of March.

Tickets for the site will be sold mainly as part of rail, tube, bus or riverboat travel packages.

Six service buildings, each three stories high, will be built under the canopy, to house restaurants, toilets, machinery, changing rooms and a television studio. The

outer circle of the dome will contain the nine main exhibition areas. Each is based on the abstract outlines devised last year: Who We Are — subdivided into sections on mind, body and spirit; Where We Live — local, national and global; and What We Do — divided into work, rest and play.

The "Body" section is being

designed by the communications company HP-ICM, which proposed building a 75 ft high model of the human body — without genitalia — for people to walk through.

There will be a theme park-style ride through the "Rest" exhibition. The "Play" section, being assembled by the Land design consultancy, will incorporate something called

the Tower of Serious Play, in which visitors will move on conveyor belts past interactive holograms.

"Work", created by the exhibition firm Park Avenue, will include a Valley of the Ladders — symbolising career paths for the future, in which visitors can apply for jobs which might appear in the 21st century.

The one-acre "Spirit" exhibition, which is designed by the architects Sirs Jirana Associates, is likely to be dedicated to common concerns of all faiths: peace, tolerance, love and care of children, as well as how to form societies to care for the underprivileged, according to Canon Colin Fletcher, of the Lambeth group of church representatives, and members of other faiths which is advising the New Millennium Experience Company.

Besides a chapel for Christian worship, there will also be a "space" for reflection and prayer for other Christians. The wish list produced last July by the group Values for Greenwich urged inclusion of the Gregorian calendar, dating from Christ's death, and a life of Christ.

Mr Mandelson's explanation of the spiritual dimension of the project came after an editorial in the Church Times urged churches to pull out of the project over fears that Christian beliefs will be reduced to a leisure pursuit.

"Spiritual renewal is to do with the soul. It's an emotional lift to the spirits, raising them above the ordinary, the mundane, the material, the earthly. It's about people being at ease with themselves," he said, adding that controversy over the Dome's religious content of it was opening up interesting issues.

Care is being taken to ensure that other faiths do not feel marginalised. There may be celebrations of the Muslim festival of Eid and the Hindu New Year, Diwali, in addition to a Christian service at Pentecost. Non-Christian calendars may also be explored.

No creative director will be appointed to replace Stephen Bayley, who resigned last week. Instead a "Litmus" group, chaired by Michael Grade and including the film director David Putnam and the television executive Alan Yentob, will review ideas.

The New Millennium Experience Company is already considering proposals for the dome's use after 2000. It could become a sports centre.

With specialist news, profiles and the latest developments, read the Media pages





Michael Golightly arriving with his wife yesterday at Newcastle crown court, where he was found guilty of causing her grievous bodily harm with intent. PHOTOGRAPH: OWEN HUMPHREYS

## Vicar gets five years for attack on wife

Stuart Miller

A CHURCH of England vicar was jailed for five years yesterday for an apparently motiveless hammer attack on his wife which fractured her skull.

The Rev Michael Golightly, aged 54, was cleared of attempted murder at Newcastle crown court but found guilty of causing grievous bodily harm with intent to his wife, Enid, aged 55.

Mrs Golightly, who stood by her husband throughout the trial, broke down as Mr Justice Sedley said he had to impose the minimum sentence. "Five years!" she screamed, before she was helped from the court. "It will kill his poor mother. What am I going to do? I have to have him to live with."

She refused to comment as she left with her daughter, Louise. The vicar's daughter, Ruth, by an earlier marriage also refused to comment.

Golightly was accused of at-

tempting to kill his wife with a blow from a 14lb hammer while she was sleeping at the couple's home in Durham in August 1996. Fragments of bone were pushed 30mm into her brain. She is unlikely to recover fully.

He claimed that he had found his wife lying naked in a pool of blood at the bottom of the stairs.

She told the court that she loved her husband and trusted him. When Golightly's bail conditions meant the couple could not see each other, it was she who petitioned the courts so that they could live together again.

Giving evidence for the defence, Mrs Golightly told the jury: "I know he would not do anything like this to me."

The clergyman also told the court of the couple's "blissfully happy" marriage. "I love her, I adore her, I wouldn't even raise my little finger to hurt her in any way."

But the prosecution claimed that in this "extraordinary case" Golightly had at-

tacked his wife without any apparent reason.

Sentencing, the judge told Golightly he had been convicted on compelling evidence. "No possible motive has been found for this act, which comes in middle age after a lifetime of exemplary service to others."

Police Sergeant Graeme Chisholm said: "The amount of blood on the bedclothes was horrific. Vicar or not, he had to be arrested."

The Bishop of Jarrow, the Right Rev Alan Smithson, said: "We are deeply concerned about this whole incident. It is a sad case with many unanswered questions. The Church deeply regrets one of its clergy being in this situation."

He added: "He was quite calm and resolute, quite incredulous that this could have been the verdict. He told me: 'How could they ever think I could ever hurt Enid?' This hasn't changed my opinion of him: he remains a good friend and Christian."



Golightly's home in Durham, where Enid was hit with a hammer. PHOTOGRAPH: RAOUL DIXON

### News in brief

#### Hamilton starts C4 libel action

NEIL HAMILTON, the disgraced former Tory minister, has issued a writ claiming damages for libel from Mohammed Al Fayed, the owner of Harrods, Channel 4 Television and Fulcrum Productions for a Dispatches programme broadcast on January 16 last year. Fulcrum is an independent production company which made the programme. A Question of Sleaze, after Mr Hamilton's libel action against the Guardian collapsed in October 1996.

Under the new Defamation Act plaintiffs have to start an action within one year of the alleged libel. They are then allowed four months to serve the writs. Yesterday none of the three prospective defendants had received the three-page document which was lodged in the High Court on January 9 by the London solicitors Crookers Oswald Hickson.

Channel 4 said last night: "We stand by our story." Michael Cole, spokesman for Mr Al Fayed, said: "It's all very puzzling."

— David Pallister

#### £1.5m mugging: three held

THREE men were arrested yesterday by police investigating the theft of £1.5 million of jewellery from a tourist who was mugged on a visit to London.

The woman, in her late 20s, was knocked to the ground and robbed early on January 6 as she and her husband returned to their holiday address after visiting a cinema and kebabs shop.

Three men pounced on them in Bayswater, west London. One held a knife to the man's throat, while the others stole the jewellery. The couple were not named by police, but have been identified in newspapers as Datin Madeliney, a South African, and her billionaire Malaysian banker husband, Dato Sunsumdin Abu Hassan.

Scotland Yard said yesterday that three men in their early 20s were arrested in Chiswick, west London and were in custody at Harrow Road police station.

#### 'Nanny case' licensee cleared

THE landlady of the pub which became the focal point of the "Free Louise Woodward Campaign" was cleared by Chester magistrates yesterday of allowing after-hours drinking. Police accused Julie Smith, aged 40, after visiting the Rigby pub in Eton at around midnight on May 31. But Robin Boag, defending, criticised the officers for failing to test for alcohol and said there was no sufficient evidence for conviction.

#### Chris Evans sacks rival

AWARD-winning Virgin Radio presenter Jonathan Coleman has been sacked by former rival and new boss Chris Evans. The announcement was made while Coleman was in his native Australia with his sick mother.

His Russ'n' Jono show partner Russell Williams is staying on at the station, bought by Evans for £85 million late last year. "The show had run its course and Jonathan is moving on," a Virgin Radio spokesman said yesterday.

When Russ'n' Jono were Evans' main breakfast rivals during his spell at Radio 1, Jono missed no opportunity to taunt his rival.

#### Steel blast victim critical

FIVE men were injured, one critically, when a "blow back" showered a group of contractors with molten metal at the Llanwrthwl steel works in south Wales.

A British Steel spokesman said an inquiry had begun into how the accident — involving an overhead crane pouring molten iron into a crucible — happened. Production of steel was halted for a time after the accident.

#### Scalextric inventor buried

THE inventor of Scalextric, Fred Francis, who died aged 79 more than 40 years after coming up with the idea for the ever-popular Grand Prix racing toy, was yesterday buried near his home at Birdham, near Chichester.

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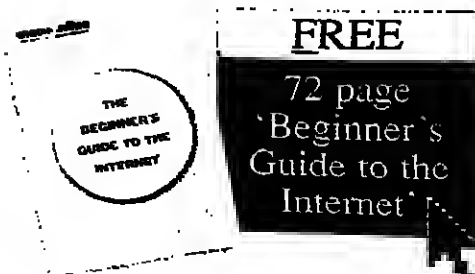
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# Turkey bans Islamist party

Chris Morris in Ankara

**T**HE largest party in the Turkish parliament, the pro-Islamist Welfare Party, was shut down yesterday by a sweeping judgment from the country's highest court. It said Welfare had violated constitutional obligations to respect Turkey's strict secular principles.

In a decision which will have far-reaching implications for Turkish politics, the court seized the party's assets and banned its leaders from political activity for five years. "We decided to close the Welfare Party because of its actions against the principles of the secular republic," the chief justice of the constitutional court, Ahmet Necdet Sezer, said.

Political parties have been shut down numerous times in the recent past, but never one with such broad support. Most of Welfare's 150 MPs will now have to hold their seats as independents, while some MPs have been dismissed by the court.

The veteran party leader, Necmettin Erbakan, said he would take his case to the European Court of Human Rights and was confident of victory. "Whenever they put obstacles in our path, our support only increases," he said.

Welfare's leaders know that appeals to international opinion will embarrass the Turkish authorities, and that the constitutional court's ruling will hardly ease Turkey's

strained relations with the European Union.

Britain, which currently holds the EU presidency, issued a statement which acknowledged that the court had acted in conformity with the Turkish constitution but

constitution we have problems with," one source said.

The Welfare Party led Turkey's first pro-Islamist government for nearly a year, until pressure from the military establishment forced it out of power last summer.

## 'Whenever they put obstacles in our path, our support increases'

voiced serious concern about the implications for democratic pluralism and freedom of expression.

Western diplomats believe Turkey needs to reform its constitution, which was introduced after a military coup in 1960. "This is bound to focus attention on the parts of the

While in office, the party implemented mild Islamic reforms, such as allowing women to wear headscarves in government offices. The secular elite, however, was convinced that Welfare had a radical hidden agenda, and it waged a systematic campaign against the party.

Both sides submitted mountains of evidence last year to the panel of 11 judges, who took their time to issue one of the most sensitive judgments they have ever been asked to make. Turkey's chief prosecutor argued that Welfare was trying to promote Islamic fundamentalism, while the party said it merely wanted people to be able to practise their religion freely.

"This is a bad decision for Turkey," Ahmet Tascetin, a pro-Islamist columnist, said. "It's not democratic and it is bound to cause trouble." Concern has been expressed about the possibility of a violent backlash, but Mr Erbakan urged his supporters to remain calm.

With more than 4 million members and a formidable grassroots organisation, Welfare's support will not simply disappear. What is unclear is whether those who feel disenfranchised will turn to a more radical form of Islamic politics. Some former members have already formed a new group, the Virtue Party, but there have been reports of differences of opinion between the old guard and a younger generation of leaders.

The Welfare Party's opponents certainly hope it will now split into competing factions, a common habit in Turkish politics. Welfare only won 21 per cent of the vote at the last election, but bitter disputes between the main secular parties led to the creation of the first pro-Islamist government in modern Turkey's 75-year history.

## World news in brief

### Tobacco companies pay \$15bn to Texas

THE United States tobacco industry settled its largest ever legal action yesterday when eight companies agreed to pay \$15 billion (\$3.4 billion) to the state of Texas in return for dropping a case which was due in court in Austin yesterday.

The companies will pay the amount over 25 years, reimbursing Texas for costs incurred in treating smoking-related illnesses. The deal includes millions of dollars to finance anti-smoking programmes and restrictions on advertising.

Forty states have sued the tobacco industry. Florida and Mississippi have also reached out-of-court settlements, for smaller sums, and a case involving Minnesota is due in court next week. The tobacco industry is also trying to negotiate a national settlement in return for protection from future smoking-related lawsuits. — *Martin Kettle, Washington*.

### Blow for Russian reformers

REASSERTING his authority, Russia's prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, took back responsibility for key areas of government policy from two embattled young economic reformers yesterday. The move was another blow to Boris Nemtsov and Anatoly Chubais, who have faced heavy bureaucratic opposition and a damaging corruption scandal. Mr Nemtsov lost control of the fuel and energy sector and Mr Chubais control of the finance ministry and state-owned media. — *AP, Moscow*.

### Serbs attack UN escort

A SERB crowd attacked United Nations police and international fact-finders trying to enter Srebrenica yesterday, leaving a policeman and damaging a vehicle, UN spokesmen said. Members of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and a UN police escort had been with Muslim politicians for the first meeting of a municipal assembly elected in September. Although Serbs overran the enclave in July 1995, voting by refugees secured a Muslim victory. — *AP, Tuzla*.

### Pope hints at Israel visit

THE Pope said yesterday that he saw a visit to the Holy Land "on his horizon". Israel's deputy prime minister, Moshe Katzav, said after an audience, "Whether that means one year or two years, we don't know," he said. The Pope has expressed a desire to visit Israel before 2000. — *Reuters, Vatican City*.

### India suffers blood shortage

A BAN last month in India on selling blood has led to a big shortage in hospitals, a blood bank official said yesterday. Newspapers have reported a number of patients dying because blood transfusions could not be performed. The ruling followed reports that people who sold blood were more likely to carry the AIDS virus than volunteers. — *AP, New Delhi*.

### Trial for Fiat chairman

A JUDGE yesterday ordered Fiat's chairman, Cesare Romiti, to stand trial on corruption charges, the Italian news agency Ansa reported. Prosecutors believe he knew of alleged payoffs to win contracts for work on the Rome subway when he was chief executive, Ansa said. The case was temporarily dropped two years ago, but prosecutors reopened it after new testimony in a related trial. — *AP, Rome*.

### Another Gandhi enters fray

TUSHAR Gandhi, great-grandson of the revered Mahatma, plunged into politics yesterday, saying he would contest India's forthcoming elections on a regional party ticket. He said the country faced a renewed threat from religious fundamentalism. The Samajwadi party, a constituent of the ousted United Front ruling coalition, said he would be the party's candidate for a constituency in Bombay. — *Reuters, Lucknow*.

### Greeks march on US embassy

HUNDREDS of Greek Communist Party supporters marched on the US embassy in Athens yesterday to protest against remarks by Washington's new ambassador to Greece, Nicholas Burns. The protesters, waving red hammer-and-sickle flags, chanted "Out with the Americans" and "Down with capitalism". In a speech on Wednesday, Mr Burns praised his country for supporting government forces against the communists in the Greek civil war and for keeping Greece in the Western bloc. — *Reuters, Athens*.

### Bad hair day for holy cow

HOPES that a red heifer named Melody would be the key to Jewish salvation were dashed yesterday after the cow's owner said white hairs had been spotted on her tail. Melody became famous in May after Shmura's Store, a rabbi in northern Israel, revealed the cow might be the first of an unprecedented heifer born in the Holy Land in 2,000 years. — *AP, Jerusalem*.

### Home run for war veterans

American and Vietnamese war veterans ride down a road in Vasing Tan, north-east of Ho Chi Minh City, on the final leg of a trans-Vietnam trip yesterday. The friendship ride began on New Year's Day. PHOTOGRAPH: RICHARD VOGL.

### Judge turns tables on landlord

A NEW YORK landlord who failed to provide her tenants with hot water and heating and left them with only partial electricity has been sentenced to 90 days in one of her own neglected flats. "She should have a taste of her own medicine," said Judge Joanna Fris, who said the flat The Super, in which an unscrupulous landlord is forced to live in his own building, may have inspired her.

Tenants said they complained to Florence Nyemmeti about blocked toilets, faulty fire extinguishers and poor heating for four years but she failed to repair them. Ms Nyemmeti, who was fined \$10,000 (\$5,000), is required to spend four nights a week, between 9pm and 6am, at the flat. — *Joanna Coles, New York*.

**"She normalised female power. She made us realise that women can do the things that men once thought were all their own."**  
Margaret Thatcher: feminist icon?

The Week page 16

## Angry jobless deepen Jospin crisis

Paul Webster in Paris

**A**NATIONAL march today by increasingly militant jobseekers will deepen a crisis over France's Socialist-led government's economic and social policies that now directly threatens the prime minister, Lionel Jospin.

Thousands of unemployed protesters will march through 90 cities to demand more benefits that would cost the government \$2.5 billion. Most protesters will be long-term unemployed who live on less than \$400 a month.

Mr Jospin will go on television next week in an attempt to end a protest which threatens an anti-inflation programme intended to ensure France's entry into the European single currency. He will appeal for public backing for a 35-hour week, which is being menaced by a clash with employers who believe a shorter working week will destroy jobs rather than create them.

Opinion polls yesterday showed 70 per cent public support for the protesters, after a month of unrest. The survey coincided with a sharp drop in Mr Jospin's popularity. After receiving more than 65 per cent public support in earlier surveys, he is backed by only 51 per cent of the electorate, according to Le Point magazine.

The slide reflects a loss of confidence in Mr Jospin's ability to settle social disputes which have seen the unemployed occupying business centres and public buildings. The latest targets included two of Paris's best known academies, the Ecole Normale Supérieure and the Political Science Institute.

An outburst in parliament by Mr Jospin earlier this week, in which he accused the right of anti-Semitism and of supporting slavery during the 19th century, is being seen as a sign of serious fatigue after seven difficult months in office. Apart from a cabinet split over the jobseekers' march, in which Communist, Green and even some Socialist ministers have encouraged the protesters, Mr Jospin has had to deal with a number of minor revolts in his coalition.

His election programme has fallen far short of its promises. Budget cuts to meet the single currency deadline have upset time-tables on job creation and improving the benefits system. The 3.1 million unemployment rate, equivalent to 12.5 per cent of the workforce, has remained steady since June, while the protest over welfare has coincided with a study showing that payments to the poor have fallen sharply in real terms since 1983.

Join the sponsored walk across London's bridges in support of the National Kidney Research Fund on Sunday May 10, 1998.



The Bronze Age mummy nicknamed Oetzi (above) was returned to Italy yesterday, where he was taken to the archaeology museum in Bolzano (left)



## Iceman Oetzi goes to Italy for exhibition

**A**CCOMPANIED by police cars and an interior ministry helicopter, the more than 5,300-year-old mummy recovered from an Alpine glacier travelled from Innsbruck to Bolzano in northern Italy yesterday in a refrigerated truck.

The dead man, whom Austrians nicknamed Oetzi after the Oetzal Alps where he was found in September 1991, is the oldest and best-preserved frozen mummy in the world. He was discovered in a glacier, surrounded by tools including a copper axe and stone dagger. Scientists using C-14 analyses determined that the corpse had lain in the ice for more than 5,300 years.

The Bronze Age hunter was placed in a specially refrigerated cell at the archaeology museum in Bolzano, Italy, where he will be on display from March 28.

Another room will display his tools and other artifacts.

An underground group in western Austria calling itself the Battle Group One Tirol — for the Tyrolean area split between Austria and Italy — had threatened to try to block the transfer to Bolzano, according to media reports. — *AP*.

## EU seeks bigger role in Middle East peace

Martin Walker in Brussels

**T**HE European Commission yesterday threatened to withhold economic aid unless Israel stopped blockading the Palestinian economy. It also demanded a full place for itself alongside the United States at the negotiating table in an attempt to revitalise the stalled Middle East peace process.

As the supplier of 54 per cent of aid funding to Palestine since the Washington donors conference in 1993, the EU's decision to brandish its economic weapon is a challenge to Israel and the US. It is likely to buttress Israeli claims that the EU is partial to the Arab side. The EU has contributed \$1.5 billion (\$900 million) to the Palestinians compared to \$380 million from the US.

This represents the most ambitious EU initiative on the world scene since its disastrous attempt to resolve the Balkan crisis in 1991 under the banner of the claim by France that "the hour of Europe is at hand".

But relations with Israel and the Middle East are so important to US interests that Brussels's bid for a big international role could risk trouble with Washington. It also puts Britain in an awkward position as current holder of the EU presidency.

## The demand will buttress Israeli claims that the EU favours the Arabs

Fresh from his trip to Washington, the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, will have to handle the commission proposal carefully at the EU foreign ministers' meeting in a week's time. Most EU members are likely to back the proposal and so is the European Parliament.

The proposal was launched yesterday by the EU Commission vice-president, Manuel Marín of Spain, who also oversees EU policy on Mediterranean countries. Openly impatient of the EU's subordination to the US in the Middle East peace process, he said the failure of the Israeli-Palestinian talks was "contaminating" the EU's other aims in the region and undermining its Mediterranean agreements and policy dialogue with North African countries.

Mr Marín also claimed EU efforts to develop the Palestinian economy had been so frustrated by failures to reach a political settlement and by Israeli security measures that "all Palestinian economic indicators point to a clear deterioration of living standards, with per capita GDP down by over one-third". The result was "widespread international donor fatigue".

The Commission proposed a series of conditions before the EU continued its aid programme, due to end later this year. One is for an end to security measures by Israel to seal off Palestinian territories, along with a demand that "the Palestinians must have open trade access to the outside world including Israel".

The Commission said: "Contrary to claims that Israel's security demands stiff restrictions on the Palestinian economy, Palestinian economic development will be Israel's best security guarantee, both in the long and short term."

## European beef import ban stays

Stephen Bates in Brussels

**A**BAN on importing beef treated with growth hormones into the European Union will continue, officials in Brussels said yesterday, despite an adjudication from the World Trade Organisation that the ban was inconsistent with the EU's international trading obligations.

The EU's trade dispute is principally with the United States but Canada and Australia are also affected. The outcome left both sides claiming victory.

Charlene Barshefsky, the US trade representative, said: "It is a clear and unequivocal win."

A senior European Commission official said: "The WTO has accepted our substantive arguments and the bottom line is that the beef will not come in."

hormone-treated animals. Growth hormones, intended to fatten cattle rapidly, have been officially banned in the EU since 1989, although a flourishing black market in substances such as clenbuterol — "angel dust" — is known to exist on farms in Belgium and Ireland.

There is strong pressure from European consumer organisations to prevent imports, and customer suspicions have been reflected in steeply declining beef sales, even before last year's BSE crisis.

US cattle producers believe they have lost hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of exports since the ban was imposed.

The WTO panel in Geneva ruled that the EU had not proved its case that there was a health risk from the beef but gave it another 15 months to produce scientific evidence related specifically to hazards caused by hormones in the meat.

The EU, it said, had the right to establish the appropriate level of consumer protection, even if it was higher than prevailing international standards.

The WTO also said the policy was not inconsistent just because the EU did not ban the import of other potentially damaging commodities.



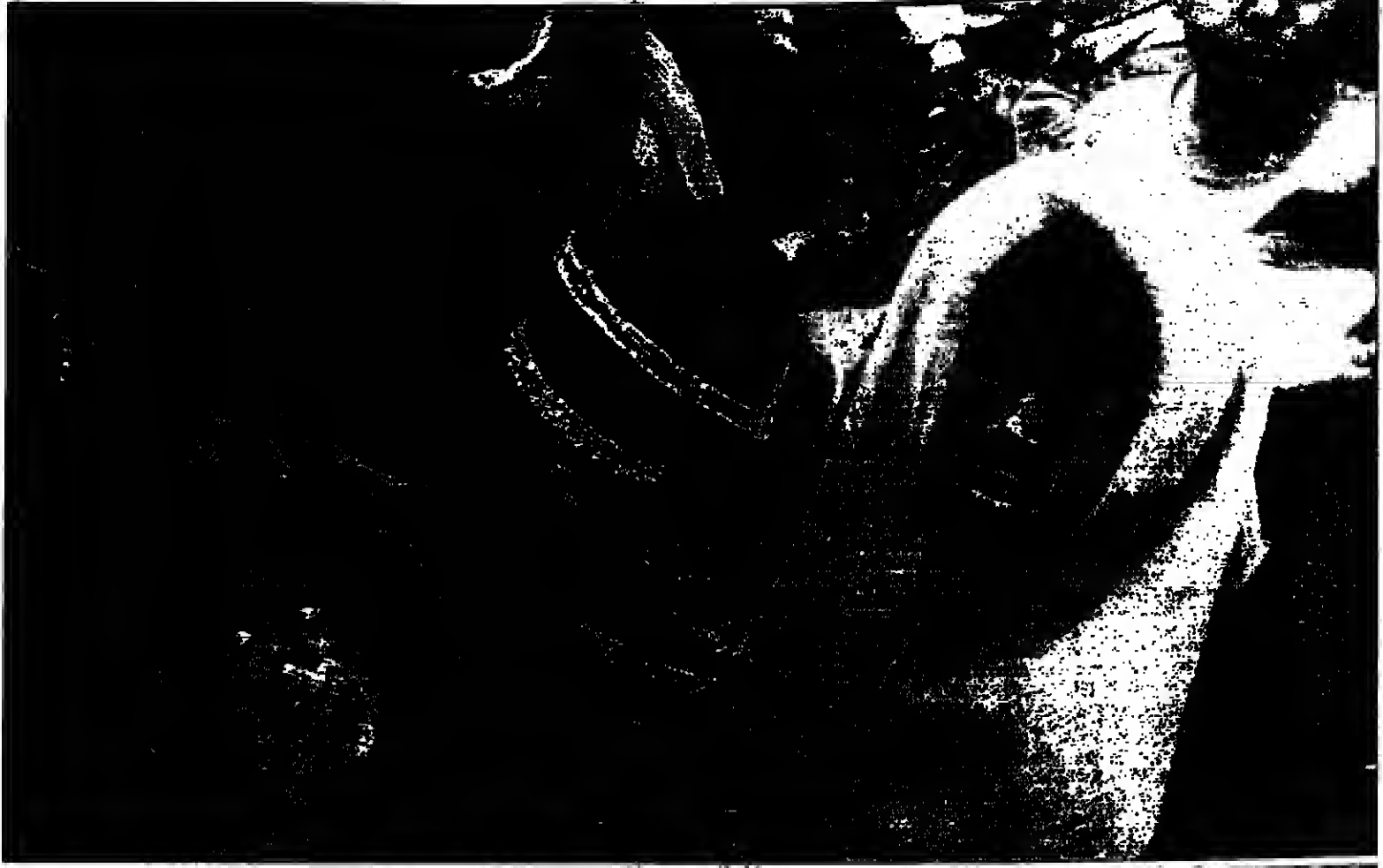
## India aims coup de grace at polio



Children in the Okhla slum quarter of New Delhi receive an oral vaccine as the climax of a three-year campaign which the World Health Organisation predicts will wipe out a disease that has hit 25 million Indians in the past quarter-century

337 million children have been vaccinated in three years. Children are especially vulnerable to the illness, transmitted by human excrement, in the hot, congested conditions of the subcontinent

Photographs by Roger Hutchings



Inkatha papers held by truth commission could destroy Buthelezi-ANC coalition

## Files threaten SA crisis

David Borenford in Johannesburg

**S**OUTH AFRICA'S truth commission, already engaged in a showdown with the former president P. W. Botha, is braced for what could be an even more explosive confrontation with Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

Documents fed to the commission by a former confidant of Chief Buthelezi have put it under pressure to subpoena the Zulu leader for questioning about his alleged collaboration with the apartheid security forces and involvement in the creation of assassination squads. But he may follow Mr Botha's example and refuse to testify.

Mr Botha is due in court next week on criminal charges for refusing to obey a commission subpoena. The humiliation for the man who once ruled South Africa with an iron rod was compounded by the disclosure yesterday that a black magistrate will hear his case.

While there is some nervousness about rightwing reaction to Mr Botha's prosecution, his case is likely to be overshadowed by any attempt to conduct hearings into Chief Buthelezi, which could lead to a political crisis for the ANC.

## Tutu is under pressure to question the chief about alleged collaboration with apartheid security forces

the African National Congress government.

It is believed the commission wants to question Chief Buthelezi on the "Feligate archives" — papers handed to it by a senior figure in the chief's Inkatha Freedom Party, Walter Feligate, who defected to the ANC last year.

Mr Feligate, a social anthropologist, was long seen as

Chief Buthelezi's most trusted adviser and Inkatha's eminence grise. When he joined the ANC last August Chief Buthelezi accused him of stealing documents from the party. Mr Feligate insisted the documents he removed were his own.

Although the content of the files is unknown, they may help answer questions about

security forces and played a role in the training of Zulu "hit squads" by South African military intelligence in the 1980s. There have also been claims of links between Inkatha and the United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

The truth commission's chief investigator, Dumisa Ntsebeza, said this week that the deputy chairman, Alex

Boraine, had sent a list of questions to Chief Buthelezi and had received a lengthy reply which was "argumentative" rather than illuminating.

The commission, chaired by Bishop Desmond Tutu, must decide whether to take on the chief when the ANC leadership is trying to negotiate a merger or alliance with

## Montserrat chief attacks Britain for spurring exodus

Sam Black Diplomatic Editor

**B**RITAIN yesterday rejected renewed complaints that it is planning to evacuate the volcano-stricken island of Montserrat and insisted it was committed to its long-term future.

David Brandt, Montserrat's chief minister, angrily accused Britain of encouraging islanders to abandon their homes because of the long-term threat posed by the Soufriere Hills volcano.

Montserrat, one of Britain's 13 remaining dependent territories, has lost two-thirds of its population since the volcano roared to life in July 1995, forcing the evacuation of the south of the island, including its capital, Plymouth.

Mr Brandt, who has criticised Britain repeatedly in recent months, seemed to be raising the political temperature deliberately before a visit by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, next month.

There is no delay when it comes to depopulation of the island, but when it comes to providing basic needs for the people, there are all kinds of delays," he said.

Of the colony's 11,000 people, only 3,500 remain on the island, most having moved to Britain or neighbouring Caribbean islands. Montserrat's economy, dependent on tourism and rice processing, has collapsed.

Britain has promised to build new houses in the north, but only 50 homes have been completed.

"Two-thirds of the island is gone and most of the people are cramped in private homes," Mr Brandt said. "I feel very embarrassed to visit people in shelters who have been living in deplorable conditions for two and a half years."

"All I am asking is for the British to follow through on their promises. They won't show their commitment." Tempers flared last summer when the International Development Secretary, Clare Short, accused the islanders of demanding "golden elephants".

The Foreign Office said in a statement: "The British Government remains absolutely committed to the future of all Montserratians, whether they choose to leave or stay, so long as that is safe. There is no hidden agenda to depopulate the island. Our aid to Montserrat is directed precisely at enabling those who want to stay to do so."

Mr Brandt's comments came a day after Ms Short announced a cash injection for improved medical service and accommodation for elderly people who have had to leave their homes. A total of £29.3 million has been committed since the crisis began.

Media circus expected at pre-trial questioning

## Humiliated Clinton faces sex accuser

Martin Kettle in Washington

**I**N WHAT is easily the most personally demeaning moment of his presidency so far, Bill Clinton will this morning face his accuser Paula Jones and give videotaped evidence under oath behind closed doors about his past sexual history.

Barring a last-minute settlement in the sexual harassment case brought by Ms Jones, Mr Clinton will be driven to his lawyer's office in Washington shortly before 10am to face wide-range questioning which could last for up to three hours.

To add to his embarrassment, Ms Jones plans to sit across the table from the president and "stare into his eyes", one of her advisers said.

She alleges that on May 8 1991, when he was governor of Arkansas and she was a state employee, Mr Clinton called her to a hotel room in Little Rock, where he dropped his trousers and asked her for oral sex.

When she refused, she claims he told her to keep quiet about the incident and then had her demoted. Mr Clinton denies the charges and says he has no recollection of ever having met her.

Today's questioning is part of a normal pre-trial civil process in which witnesses for both sides give evidence under oath before the case comes to court.

Ms Jones gave sworn testimony in Arkansas in November, but Mr Clinton asked to be deposed in Washington. Jury selection for the case is set to begin in Little Rock on May 27.

Mr Clinton is expected to be driven under guard in his presidential limousine into the basement of his lawyer's office in New York Avenue, only a short distance from the White House, and is not expected to make any public statement.

Ms Jones, on the other hand, is likely to exploit every opportunity to parade for the assembled media, even though she, too, is forbidden to speak about details.

Ms Jones who has had a thorough make-up and fashion



Paula Jones: Plans to sit and stare into president's eyes

makeover for the occasion, is certain to be accompanied by her "egregious" adviser, Susan Carpenter McMillan, who has said she will "accommodate the media" during the questioning and answer session. Ms McMillan will not be allowed to attend the deposition but can be relied upon to play a full part in the media proceedings.

Today's questioning will take place in the offices of Skadden Arps, the Washington law firm in which Mr Clinton's attorney, Bob Bennett, is a senior partner. The only people present will be

Mr Clinton, Ms Jones, their legal teams, a court stenographer and a technical team. Ms Jones will be represented by six lawyers, of whom one, James Hader, is expected to ask most of the questions. The presiding judge in the case, Judge Susan Wright, will monitor the case over the telephone and may question the president, too.

Mr Clinton must expect to be questioned about the events of May 8 1991, as well as about what Ms Jones has alleged are the "distinguishing characteristics" of his genitals.

In addition, and in an attempt to portray the president as an incorrigible womaniser, Ms Jones's lawyers will ask about Mr Clinton's sexual history, a subject on which they have been trying to solicit allegations for months.

Mr Bennett is certain to attempt to limit the questioning, which he has repeatedly argued is designed to harass and embarrass Mr Clinton for political reasons rather than to serve a legal purpose.

Ms Jones's lawyers have already questioned Jennifer Flowers, Mr Clinton's longtime former mistress, and Dolly Kyle Browning, a former schoolmate of the president who has written a book in which she claims to document a 38-year relationship with Mr Clinton.

In addition, evidence has been taken from state troopers who Ms Jones alleges acted as Mr Clinton's agents in arranging sexual trysts.

Once the president gets through today's session, he intends to take no further direct part in the Jones case. Having given his evidence, he cannot be compelled to testify in court.

One of his aides said this week: "With the deposition, the president knows he will never again testify on this."

## Row over film's content

Christopher Freed in Los Angeles

**T**HE British film maker Nick Broomfield's unfavourable documentary on singer Courtney Love and her husband, Kurt Cobain, has been withdrawn from a film festival in a row about its content.

Officials of Robert Redford's Sundance festival in Utah removed the film, Kurt and Courtney, two days before it was to be shown. Lawyers for the singer-turned-actress said Mr Broomfield had not cleared the rights to use songs by Nirvana, the late grunge singer's former band, and Ms Love's group, Hole.

But the film maker, whose documentary Heidi Fleiss: Hollywood Madam was praised after it was premiered at Sundance, argued he was being silenced by forces in Hollywood backing Ms Love's career as a serious actress.

The film portrays the couple's stormy, drug-riddled life and Cobain's suicide in 1994. Mr Broomfield interviews Ms Love's estranged father and a singer from the underground music scene who claims to have been offered money to murder Cobain.

The disputed songs in the film were from BBC footage and were cleared, Mr Broomfield claimed. He nevertheless offered to remove the offending music. But Sundance officials would not change their minds.

"This is a very sad statement about freedom of speech in the States today," Mr Broomfield said.

He added: "I'm not surprised about what has happened. It's a continuation of what the film is about: how someone with a great deal of money can throw their weight around."

Mr Broomfield has been accused of using the dispute to generate publicity for his film at the crucial period of its launching.

## 'Dirty war' defender held

Phil Gannon, Latin America Correspondent

**O**NE of the most notorious villains of Argentina's "dirty war" of the 1970s, the retired naval captain Alfredo Astiz, has been sentenced to 60 days' disciplinary detention in a naval barracks after he defended the "cleansing" of the opponents of the 1976-83 military regime in a magazine interview.

The attorney-general, Nicolas Bocorra, has also asked the federal prosecutor to consider charging him with an "uprising against the constitutional order" for implicitly raising the threat of a further coup.

**'In 1982 a friend asked me if there had really been disappeared persons. I told him: There are 6,500, possibly more, but no more than 10,000'**

**'They cleansed them all, killed them. There was no other remedy'**

Astiz is perhaps best known in Britain for his leading role in the seizure of South Georgia which preceded the Falklands war. Captured when British forces retook the island, he was handed back to Argentina, despite pressure from France and Sweden for him to be put on trial for the murder of two French nuns and a Swedish-Argentinian teenager, Degmar Hagelin.

He was sentenced in absentia to life imprisonment by a French court, and international pressure contributed to his forced retirement from the navy last year. But he is reported to have continued to carry out intelligence work.

In the interview, published on Thursday by the Argentinian magazine *Tres Puntos*, Astiz denied the murder of Hagelin, saying he knew who had done it but would "never

speak out against a comrade".

The nuns, Alice Domond and Leonie Duquet, were among a dozen people "disappeared" by the military after Astiz succeeded in infiltrating the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo, a group formed to uncover the fate of their missing children. The Mothers' founder was among those killed.

The interview has caused a storm in Argentina, especially because Astiz expressed no regret for his role in murders and disappearances. "In 1982 a friend asked me if there had really been disappeared persons," he said. "I told him: Sure, there are 6,500, possibly more, but no more than 10,000."

"They cleansed them all," he said referring to the disappeared. "There was no other remedy." Asked what he meant by cleansed, he said: "They killed them. What else were they going to do?"

After the return of democracy in 1983 an official report found evidence that 9,000 people had been killed. In 1995 another officer, Adolfo Scilingo (who was arrested in Spain but freed last week) revealed first-hand details of regular "death flights" during which prisoners were drugged and thrown into the sea.

Astiz boasted he was "the best technically prepared man in this country for killing a politician or a journalist", and warned civilians to stop "cornering" the armed forces.

"They're playing with fire," he said, adding that fellow officers had visited him every day to tell him: "You have to lead an uprising."

"I always give them the same message: calm down, this happened in every country. We have to be patient. But I don't know how long we can wait."

Opposition members of congress recently introduced a bill to repeal laws which gave human rights violators like Astiz immunity from prosecution. The laws were brought in after a series of military rebellions in the mid-1980s.

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The Guardian



## Junior Wells

## The bouncy bluesman

**J**UNIOR Wells, the blues singer and harmonica player who has died from lymphoma aged 63, once protested, "I just don't understand how you can play good music and stand still. That was a problem I had the first time I went to Europe. I got booed in Germany, because I was moving around and playing. They wanted to see me like Sleepy Jones Bates, where you get a chair and sit down and play. I can't play that way!"

I remember it well, Wells on stage in London at the 1966 American Folk Blues Festival, a small coiled spring in black silk zinging round the stage like a Chinese kick-boxer. A young woman next to me, subdued by the sober, introverted blues of earlier performers on the bill such as Robert Pete Williams and plainly wondering if the whole evening would be that hard going, suddenly cheered up at Wells' sudden input of hot-pepper sexuality.

The same restless physicality was almost tangible in a club performance with Buddy Guy for Barclay Cooke's 1970 film documentary *Chicago Blues*. For about two decades Wells and Guy were the finest and most famous partnership in modern blues, electric descendants of that earlier harmonica-and-guitar duo Sonny Terry and Brownie McGhee.

Wells and Guy had met, as so many Chicago bluesmen did, in the orbit of Muddy Waters. Wells had grown up in West Memphis. "My father... all he knew about was sharecropping," he told the writer Paul Trynka. "He was in a plantation in... I can't recall the name, and I don't never want to recall it no more anyway."

Rather than have to do farmwork he was sent to his mother in Chicago, where as a boy he hung around older bluesmen such as Tampa Red. By his mid-teens he was playing regularly with the guitarists Dave and Louis Myers as The Three Deuces (later Aces). At 18 he grabbed the city's premier harmonica job, replacing Little Walter in the Muddy Waters band. Less than two years later, however, he passed the gig on to James Cotton so that, like Little Walter before him, he could promote his own player, which had recently been accelerated by his startling first recordings such as *Hoodoo Man*, made with the help of veteran musicians including Waters and Elmore James.

Though somewhat under the influence of both the earlier blues singers and harmonica players such as Sonny Boy Williamson, Wells was

already revealing a distinctive harmonica tone, and on subsequent records such as *Come On In This House* and *Messin' With the Kid* he sounded both bluesy and temerarious.

There might have been a valuable skill, had he had backing, but in common with all the Chicago bluesmen he had a lean time in the early-to-mid-1960s, scuffling for low-paid club work and infrequent recording dates. Things improved as blues was embraced by the beautiful people: Wells and Guy, who began working together regularly after collaborating on Wells's 1965 Delmark album *Hoodoo Man Blues*, were booked at hippie and campus venues, toured as support act for the Rolling Stones and recorded several albums each for the folk label Vanguard.

By the 1970s they were blues glitterati, featured in films and feted in Europe, Australia and Japan. In their interplay on stage they were at times as artful as Astaire and Rogers, though on undisciplined evenings they could come across more like Laurel and Hardy.

Whether out of laziness or because they were too busy to acquire new material, they devoted great tracts of their concerts to songs associated with their mentors Muddy Waters and Sonny Boy Williamson II, fluid melodies that allowed them plenty of room for gesture and grand-standing.

**A**FTER several quiet years Wells started recording in the early 1990s, and in 1996 produced the virtually acoustic *Come On In This House* with an attendant crew of slide guitarists including Sonny Landreth and Corey Harris. Seasoned admirers, preparing to greet it as his best album for more than 20 years, suddenly realised that apart from his collaborations with Guy he had let almost 20 years go by without recording very much at all.

In part that was because he had deliberately put public performance before records, and doubtless thousands of blues enthusiasts are glad that he did. But it also hints at Wells' one artistic shortcoming, though a dramatic harmonica-player and an effective interpreter of other people's songs, he was that curious and uncommon figure, a blues singer who had no story of his own to tell.

Tony Russell

Amos "Junior" Wells, blues musician, born December 9, 1934; died January 15, 1998.



Junior Wells... a coiled spring in black silk zinging round the stage like a Chinese kick-boxer

PHOTOGRAPH BY REDFERN

## Anthea Joseph

## An encounter at the Troubadour with Bob Dylan

**I**N DA Pennebaker's documentary chronicling Bob Dylan's early 1960s tour of England, *Don't Look Back*, a scene at London's Savoy Hotel features a confrontation involving the singer, his entourage and the hotel staff. Prominent in peering the situation is a lanky young woman with long, dark hair. She was Anthea Joseph, who has died aged 57. Her peace-making was symbolic of a life largely devoted to smoothing things over for musicians.

Anthea first met Dylan

when he came to London in 1963 to appear in a BBC television play. "I was in the door in the Troubadour and I saw this pair of high-heeled boots coming down the stairs and thought, 'Oh God, another Southern cowboy, when this skinny little scruff came up and asked: Are you Anthea?' He was struggling with his English money and about to tell me his name, when I said: 'I know who you are. And it's free if you do a set for me.'"

Her parents were part of

1930s Soho-Fitzrovia phenomena. Her mother, Elizabeth "Tish" Young, was a pioneering film critic for the *Daily Worker* and her father, Noel Joseph, was a Welsh contemporary and boon companion of Dylan Thomas, until the time deputy editor of the *News Chronicle*.

Anthea came to folk music through Redd Sullivan, whom she met when he was busking under Epsom Road Bridge. Redd and a performing partner, Martin Windsor, introduced her to

the clubs and pubs where the folk revival was taking root and Redd eventually prompted her to help in the running of the Troubadour in Earl's Court, then one of the most prestigious folk rooms in the world.

In 1966 she joined the Dublin EMI office where she artfully persuaded Radio Eirann to play the Beatles' *Let It Be*. Irish broadcasting having previously been disinclined to air a song which featured breast feeding. In 1969 she joined record

producer Joe Boyd's London-based Witthesson and was particularly involved in the management of Fairport Convention.

After Witthesson came CBS and several production and management companies. Twenty years ago anyone with an English accent meeting an American in the music business was almost sure to be asked, "Do you know Anthea?"

She was a regular source for historians of the folk revival, but never had artistic

ambitions of her own and lacked the confidence to write her music business memoirs. She was widely known, respected and loved by people in the music world, many of whom she had nurtured. "What exactly does Anthea do?" a colleague of hers was once asked. "Do?" came the reply. "Well... she Antheas."

Patrick Carroll

Anthea Joseph, music promoter, born October 27, 1940; died December 24, 1997

## Georgi Sviridov

## Music to suit Mother Russia

**G**EOrgi Sviridov, who has died aged 82, belonged to the important (if overshadowed) generation of Soviet composers who grew up in the early 1930s and followed immediately in the wake of Shostakovich. For Sviridov, native folksongs, patriotic subjects and "heroic" oratorios, as opposed to symphonic and contemporary music, formed the core of his output, all of which is engagingly appealing to listeners, even though non-Russians may be hard put to capture the inner nuances of his more esoteric choral texts.

Sviridov was born in Patezh, in the Kuznetsov region south of Moscow, and after local study entered the Leningrad Central Music College. He also studied with Shostakovich at the Leningrad Conservatory upon the latter's arrival there in 1937, finishing with the success of his *First Symphony*. Sviridov was already an accomplished pianist, and the next four years were intensely active for the



Georgi Sviridov... the authorities denied his music safe for mass consumption

young composer. His graduation in 1941 coincided with the outbreak of war and he was evacuated to Novosibirsk. Parted from Shostakovich, who stayed on in Leningrad for a time (producing his acclaimed *Leningrad Symphony*), Sviridov began to develop his own political values, and his evident talent found favour in Party circles. His early Stalin prize for his *Piano Trio* confirmed his ascendancy in the post-war Soviet cultural establishment. Meanwhile, he had also been a setting of

Shakespeare, a piano concerto and two string quartets. The 1948 All Union Composers Conference, in which Shostakovich, Prokofiev, Khachaturian and others were denounced, barely noticed Sviridov. He was working on a setting of poetry by the Georgian poet Iosadze, and soon after that, in 1953, set some of Robert Burns's poems, in translation, to music.

He had already shown interest in one of Russia's most famous "revolutionary" writers, Sergei Yesenin, whose *Wooden Russia* he set in 1947. Sviridov paid tribute to Yesenin, who committed suicide in 1925, by writing a large-scale oratorio in his memory for tenor soloist, chorus and orchestra (1958), his most mature work to date. The choice of poems, the folk-like nature of the solo part, the elements of dance and overall simplicity all lend weight.

Sviridov now turned his attention to another revolutionary poet and early suicide, Vladimir Mayakovsky. *The Pathetic Oratorio* (1959) invokes the memory of Lenin in crude terms, and Sviridov's music does nothing to play down these qualities. The work was taken up by the conductor Vladimir Fedoseyev, and recorded by the state recording agency, Melodiya. Most importantly, however, it won him the coveted Lenin Prize, and his elevation to the top ranks of the musical establishment followed. From 1962 to 1974 he was secretary of the USSR Union

of Composers and in 1968 he became first Secretary of the Russian Federation Composers Union.

Sviridov set many other Russian writers to music, including Pasternak and Pushkin. His later work included scores for cinema and television. In 1974 he wrote a (suitably ingenuously) suite to the film based on Pushkin's short story *Snowstorm* and a notable orchestral suite for the film *Time, Forward!* (1967), after the novel by Valentin Katayev, which depicts the efforts of the undernourished, poorly housed workers building a gigantic steel plant in the heart of the Ural Mountains. The mood is one of unquenchable optimism rather than hardship and suffering, as is often the case with Sviridov and may partly explain his success: his music was deemed "safe" for mass consumption.

But that is not to dismiss him as a party hack: his literary tastes were catholic, and he possessed an unerring gift to reach the grassroots of his country's musical heritage, its songs and atmosphere, and to evoke them in a contemporary language readily understood. In recent years, mainly through recordings, his music had started to become better known outside Russia.

He leaves a wife, Elsa.

Bret Johnson

Georgi Sviridov, composer, born December 16, 1915; died January 5, 1998

## CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

THERE was an editing error in an account, on page 10 of our Sports section yesterday, of a dispute between the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association and its former chairman, Geoff Foulds. As a result we wrongly stated that a report into the abuse of the WPBSA expenses system had been leaked by its company secretary, Martyn Blake. The report was written by Mr Blake, as our correspondent said in his original story, but leaked to a national newspaper by a third party. We are happy to emphasise that Mr Blake had no hand in the leak and would like to apologise to him for any embarrassment our report may have caused.

IN A report of the funeral service for Sir Michael Tippett, (page 4, yesterday), we misspelled the name of the actor Alec McCowen.

IN THE obituary for John Pinkerton (page 14, yesterday), we referred to his national science degree at Cambridge. We should have said natural science.

It is the policy of the *Guardian* to correct errors as soon as possible. Readers may contact the office of the Readers' Editor, Ian Hayes, by telephoning 0171 238 9629 between 11am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Fax: 0171 238 9697. E-mail: reader@guardian.co.uk

## Face to Faith

## New Labour's poor show

Bob Holman

**A**S LEADER of the Labour Party in opposition, Tony Blair identified with Christian socialism. By basing socialism on Christian ethics, he found an alternative to the Marxism of the hard left. The Christian Socialist Movement was delighted as Tony Blair, Gordon Brown, Jack Straw and other senior colleagues enlisted and helped to boost its membership.

What did Christian socialists expect of Labour once elected? Christian socialism has various meanings and I do not speak on behalf of the Christian Socialist Movement. However, I do associate with people who have a particular concern about poverty. For them, Christian socialism includes the following. First, a belief in greater equality, which draws upon the teaching that God created all people of the equal value. Second, an identification with poor people; Jesus Christ spent his days with the poor rather than the rich. Christian socialists believe they should be alongside those whose education, family stability and health are threatened by social deprivation. Third, a commitment to the involvement of the socially excluded.

Given these objectives, it is not surprising that many Christian socialists are deeply disappointed in New Labour. Greater equality is almost a non-starter. While in opposition, Labour MPs criticised Conservative tax policies which favoured the affluent at the cost of those with low incomes. Yet on taking office, Labour decreed that income tax rates would not be increased even for those earning more than £100,000.

Hopefully, the Welfare to Work schemes will get more people into jobs. But the American experience suggests that jobs are not necessarily a way out of poverty, and numerous job-finders return to welfare. In Britain, if the latter are lone parents, they will return to a savage cut in their benefits.

New Labour now exalts the poor and speaks disparagingly of the poor as welfare dependents. The *Daily Mail* writes of "Tony Blair's glitzy champagne parties, attended by celebrities." His door is open to millionaires like Bernie Ecclestone to advocate their business interests. It is not open to the unemployed and low-paid. To its credit, New Labour has created, with a fanfare, a Social Exclusion Unit. But it has set no targets for reducing poverty. Its members and consultants are overwhelmingly made up of privileged establishment and professional figures.

Ironically, it excludes from major decision-making any residents of council estates, claimants or anyone from the hard end. I predict that, after five years, the members and

consultants will have increased their salaries and improved their careers while the poor will still be excluded. As in biblical times, the powerful still use the poor.

Recently, Tony Blair revealed that he saw nothing wrong in having Labour ministers who were millionaires. A church I know on the Easterhouse estate in Glasgow is starting a breakfast club for kids. It is this kind of equality which is acceptable to New Labour but which Christian socialists find intolerable.

How can Christian socialists respond? I know some who speak of leaving the Labour Party. I prefer to stay and work for more radical policies, like a maximum wage, and for MPs who will back them. I also want friendly dialogue and prayer with Christians who are backing the Government's direction. More immediately, Christian socialists can express their principles by the way they live. Three examples must suffice. First, by limiting their wage to no more than the average wage. This will show that their personal greed does not have to dominate.

Second, by dwelling alongside those in locations of social deprivation. As they use the same shops, transport, and schools (I say Blair, please note) they can strengthen the neighbourhood economy, and its facilities.

**T**HIRD, by acting with residents in locally-controlled projects such as credit unions, food co-ops and day centres. These facilities not only alleviate poverty, they also enable more low-income citizens to make decisions about services which affect them.

Living out Christian socialism does not depend upon party politics, but it is relevant to them. Its absence in the lives of Labour leaders may explain the lack of determination to tackle inequality. The lifestyles of Blair, Brown, Straw, Irvine etc are characterised by huge incomes, large homes, holidays abroad, expensive restaurants and wealthy friends. Even if born into humble circumstances, they have distanced themselves from the socially needy, and hence are out of touch and give no priority to policies to transform their conditions.

George Lansbury was also a leader of the Labour Party in the 1930s. He always refused to move from Bow in east London so that he could be amongst the unemployed. He refused all honours and perks. As "the most lovable figure in modern politics" (as *As I Was* says) he won many to socialism by the sheer quality of his life.

Bob Holman lives in Easterhouse, Glasgow, and is the author of *Towards Equality: A Christian Manifesto* published by SPCK

## Weekend birthdays

John Hume might have been joining it up on his 61st birthday tomorrow in Aras An Uachtairin, the residence of the Irish President. He would have made a popular choice and would have had an easy run had he thrown his name forward for the October poll. He eventually declined, opting instead to continue his battle for peace in Northern Ireland.

A languages teacher and European he is an MEP as well as MP for Foyle, which includes his native Derry — the SDLP leader rose to prominence 30 years ago as a civil rights activist. He has played a crucial, and often controversial, role in politics ever since. His work with Gerry Adams helped pave the way for Sinn Féin's entry into the political mainstream, his secret contacts often riling party members who were generally unconvinced.

His colleagues see him as aloof, a loose cannon, and he is criticised in private for what some see as his use of the SDLP, which he has led for almost 20 years, as a personal vehicle. Some say he is vain. Few claim to know him well. But his commitment to peace has never been in doubt. It has caused him some awful moments, particularly when the first IRA ceasefire collapsed two years ago. He has stuck to the same message throughout, often at some cost to his own party's fortunes. 1998 will, he knows, be a watershed year.

**Today's birthdays:** Prince Saravindra Aga Khan, former UN High Commissioner for Refugees; 65, Muhammad Ali, former boxer; 56, Sir Edward Fennessy, radar pioneer; 66, Monica Furlong, writer; 66, Damian Green, Conservative MP; 62, Françoise Hardy, singer and songwriter; 64, Caroline Rudge, president, Open Door International; 50, Anthony Kenney, obstetrician and gynaecologist; 56, the Rt Rev Nigel McCulloch, Bishop of Wake-



field; 56, Paul Merton, broadcaster and comic; 41, Prof Ann Oakley, sociologist and writer; 54, Prof William Robertson, histopathologist; 75, Nadi Sasseoon, hair stylist; 70, Mark Gheer, writer, actress and ballet dancer; 72, Richard Smethurst, economist, provost of Worcester College, Oxford; 57, Audrey Slaughter, editor and novelist; 58, Sir Clyde Walcott, chairman, International Cricket Council; 72, Cedar Walton, jazz pianist, composer; 68, Paul Young, singer, 52.

**Tomorrow's other birthdays:** Chief Euneka Anyaoka, Commonwealth Secretary-General; 66, Peter Beardsley, footballer; 57, David Burt, actor, director and producer; 64, David Burke, chief constable, North Yorkshire; 59, John Coleman, Labour MP; 40, Kevin Costner, actor; 43, Richard Dunwoody, jockey; 34, Christian Fittipaldi, racing driver; 27, Sir Rocco Forte, hotelier; 35, Paul Keating, former prime minister of Australia; 58, Sir Clyde Walcott, chairman, International Cricket Council; 72, Cedar Walton, jazz pianist, composer; 68, Paul Young, singer, 52.

**Births**  
McGee/Smythers, Esmann and Nelson are depicted in the safe arrival of their daughter Naomi, on the left, and her brother, on the right. Naomi and Esmann are the daughters of the late Sir John and Lady Esmann.

With place your announcements telephone 0171 713 1713 1713 1713 between 11am and 5pm Mon-Fri.



## Please, Mr Robinson

Go easy on the arts

CAN it get any worse? The outgoing Arts Council chairman, Lord Gowrie, departed yesterday declaring the current situation was "the worst revenue crisis in the arts in my adult lifetime". The new chairman Gerry Robinson, an ebullient character notorious for his readiness to play the philistine when he took over Granada Television, turned down the job at first, openly admitting his lack of enthusiasm was due to "the lack of freedom in the post". And to cap off the week, the new chairman of the Royal Opera House, Sir Colin Southgate, already under conflict-of-interest suspicions as chairman of EMI with its exclusive contracts with a small group of conductors, holds his first press conference and defends his elitist approach: "We mustn't downgrade the opera house. I don't want to sit next to somebody in a singlet, a pair of shorts and a smelly pair of trainers." So much for his political nous. Sir Colin was clearly unaware of Labour's new subsidy dictum: inclusivity is the price of public support.

Lord Gowrie bluntly condemned both his former Conservative colleagues for their cuts to arts funding and the new Labour administration for its imprudent adoption of Tory spending plans for its first two years. But some of the blame falls on Gowrie himself. Even though a former politician, he proved inept at negotiating the political rapids which the position requires and failed to modernise the Council's antiquated management. The Council's mismanagement of the Royal Opera's redevelopment destabilised not just support for regional theatres but the London fringe as well. Theatres, orchestras and dance companies across the country all suffered in yesterday's handouts — the fifth successive year Arts Council grants have been cut.

Many creative people in television would declare the new solution, Gerry Robinson, will only make the current problem worse. He is an arch cutter. But judgement should be suspended. He is not as barbaric as he pretends. He does have close contacts with Labour's leaders. And the Arts Council needs shaking up. The new lottery bill offers hope. The aim is to give the Council a strategic role for the first time with new powers to invite bids from regional companies rather than just waiting passively for applications. Growing lottery cash — which now exceeds the Council's £180 million revenue grants — will no longer be restricted to capital projects. There is a limit to the number of cultural palaces needed. This year will be grim but some sunshine can be seen on the horizon.

## Love the piggy within

For they are just like us

WE eat almost every bit of them — except the squeal — with their meat more variously named than any other species: gammon, ham, bacon and, of course, pork. They are the subjects of nursery rhymes (This little piggy...), children's stories (Three Little Pigs) and everyday metaphor (piggy in the middle). They have been the pets of a premier (Stanley Baldwin) and the object of obsessive love (remember Lord Emsworth's passion for his prize porker, the Empress of Blandings?). This week they became the object of that ever-so-British phenomenon: a bout of collective, animal-inspired madness. The Guardian cannot tell the inside story of the Tamworth Two's flight from the slaughterhouse — that's been bought up for £15,000 by the Daily Mail. That newspaper now has some explaining to do. What message has it sent to the 15 million other pigs sentenced to the abattoir each year: escape from piggy and your defiance shall be rewarded with a life of peace and animal sanctuary? The Daily Mail's long record on law and order must now be called into question.

The task now is to sort out what is clearly a relationship of deep, but mixed emotions: the British and the Pig. On the one hand, we use them as synonyms for dirt and crudity. The unevolved man is a "male chauvinist pig," while, to those wary of police heavy-handedness, the constabulary are "the pigs." Literature has cast them as frequent villains — most famously in the form of Napoleon, the porcine dictator of Animal Farm. We chop up all their bits for food with barely a squeal of dissent.

And yet we cherish our pink friends. A A Milne's Piglet is a cutie. Miss Piggy a favourite Muppet. Now Butch and Sundance are to join the porker hall of fame, immortalised as a pair of soft toys — coming in "beige-plum colour with soft ears and likely to sell for under £10 each." Perhaps the stand-out, though, was Babe — the precursor of the Tamworth duo in its plucky determination to dodge its fate. It is no coincidence that pigs are often used as a substitute for humans in films, scientific experiments and the like. For our attitude to pigs is the same as our view of humans: we don't know whether to love them or hate them.

## A Country Diary

NORTH PEMBROKESHIRE: In wet and blustery weather, a walk along the Nevers estuary to Newport sands is always pleasurable. After all, we expect sand to be wet. High winds, high rivers and high tides have covered the banks with wood. One old long-boat abandoned on its side with broken spars is filled with an assortment of branches swept in by the water. The birds enjoy the potential. Oyster catchers call, land and probe the debris with their sharp beaks. A mud bank is covered in a collection of gulls. Suddenly, they rise together and call, the sound of the belling gull echoing over the water. Malsards cruise along, beady eyes alert for food. Curlews move and cry whilst cormorants, dark pirates, rove up and down the water, suddenly up-eating to re-appear where we least expect them, but no fish in bank. The waves break life a row of trained dancers, a long line of falling water and

as the end falls, the beginning is rising to a crest again. Wind and waves pattern the sand. On the way back, we surprise a charm of gold finches, so light, so joyous. Here's a finch we can all enjoy. It eats thistle seeds, unlike the beautiful bullfinch. The superabundance of water everywhere led inevitably to a superabundance of rain-bows around the almost full moon. The dark night-sky glowed with colour. An optical illusion? A portent? There was the moon surfing on ordinary sea surrounded by colour. I kept on walking up that night to moonlight, but it didn't last. The moon slipped lower and lower in the sky behind a fringe of bare branches with no colour. "A rainbow in the morning/Is the shepherd's warning/But a rainbow at night/Is the shepherd's delight" is an old weather rhyme, but the next day, dry to start, soon turned to the same triumphant rain.

AUDREY INSCHE

## Letters to the Editor

That was the week that was

TIM Radford (How to live longer, Analysis, January 16) notes that the pressure to treat previously fatal diseases and conditions has created "a burden of pensioners-to-be" for tomorrow's developed world. It is not simply longevity that has added to our social security bill, but a number of factors, particularly age discrimination.

Our society's cruel ageism refuses to value older people's skills and experience, and denies many people over 40 the opportunity to work and use their own wealth. Better health can only improve older people's productivity and reduce the burden on the NHS. Sally Greenroos, Director-General, Age Concern England, London SW16 4ER.

AS enforcers of food-safety legislation, we are concerned that the performance of local authorities in food-safety inspection should not be judged solely on the numbers of inspections (Guest who's coming to dinner, January 14). The effectiveness of safety enforcement should be measured by references to a number of factors, including the quality of advice given to food businesses, the effectiveness of public education campaigns and the hygiene training of food-handling workers. Michael Cooke, Chief Exec, Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, 15 Hatfields, London SE1.

THIS week, the "lazy parents" are those who spend too little time with their children (Labour targets lazy parents, January 16). Yet only a few weeks ago, the "lazy parents" were those single mothers who spent too much time with their children instead of going out to work. Anne Sherman, 88 St Albans Road, Derby DE23 3JN.

THE Government is to rename our dependent territories as British overseas territories (Report, January 15). Why not go further and grant the territories representation in Westminster? French overseas territories and departments are so represented in their national assembly. L. Freitag, 22 Cravells Road, Harpenden, Herts AL5 1BD.

THIS little porker has committed no crime (Tamworth Two: one detained, one still on the run, January 16). He seems to have led a blameless life — no scandal, no sleaze. This incident makes it even more important to implement a privacy law. The Tamworth One should not be hounded by the paparazzi. Jenny Wilford, 32 Alexandra Road, Windsor, Berks SL4 1HR.

## A fight at the opera

CONTRARY to Sir Colin Southgate's belief (The new voice of opera, January 1), in the days when I, as a schoolgirl from a south London council house, could afford to attend Covent Garden, we actually bathed occasionally and dressed in a suitable manner. Then, the amphitheatre had backless benches at half-a-crown.

I wonder how many south London schoolchildren can afford today's prices. Sir Colin should realise that even those of us on low incomes know what soap is and would like the opportunity of enjoying the arts. We also have standards. Shirley A. Haynes, School House, Brynham, Huntingdon PE18 0QS.

ON your front page, you headline the hostility of the latest chairman of the Royal Opera towards infirmal footwork. On an inside page, you report the funeral for Sir Michael Tippett, who

went to Buckingham Palace in "brightly-coloured pinstripes". Had he lived, I take it the eccentric old composer would not have been welcome at Covent Garden. Geoffrey Haydon, 115 Durham Road, London N2 9DR.

SIR Colin Southgate has a nerve. The amount of the subsidy on his ticket is more than an ordinary person's weekly wage packet. John Thompson, 28 West Street, Newport NP23 4DD.



## Welfare: holes in the argument

THE shape that welfare reform is taking (Trust us on welfare — Labour, January 14) is unconvincing. Specific objectives, and published estimates of what shifts in the total value of taxes and incomes are being designed to reduce poverty and social polarisation, have not been given. There are three particular problems.

● In the debate about the social security "cost" of £95 billion, no distinction is made between entitlement to national insurance benefits, covered by contributions paid (sometimes over a lifetime) by wage-earners, employers and the self-employed, and selective means-tested benefits paid out of taxation. The latter is only a third of the total and is the main, and often undeserved, target of opprobrium.

● In references to the poorest 20 per cent, there are no corresponding references to the richest 20 per cent, who receive £200 billion a year in disposable income — more than 40 per cent of GDP. Waste and tax evasion here is far more significant than fraud among the poorest 20 per cent.

● In references to public consultation, there is no acknowledgement that there is voluminous survey evidence showing that not only does an overwhelming majority of the public support more spending on health, education and

social insurance benefits — like pensions — but a majority, including many in the richest 20 per cent, also accept paying more tax to achieve that objective. Prof Peter Townsend, University of Bristol.

IN the current debate, Social Fund payments towards maternity expenses have been ignored. In April 1996, for the eighth consecutive year, the payments made to pregnant women receiving income support, family credit or disability living allowance towards maternity expenses will be frozen at £100.

A shift of focus towards the large numbers on low incomes receiving inadequate maternity payments, and away from the small numbers of women of child-bearing age who earn over £10,000, would be very welcome. Les Allamby, Director, Law Centre, 124 Donegall Street, Belfast BT1 2GY.

WITH regard to the debate concerning the "capping" of welfare benefits, the answer is to limit the benefits paid relative to the contributions made? Either that, or remove the ceiling at which NI contributions are made. Roger Fryatt, Meadows Lodge, Brynham Park, Nr Dereham NR20 4RJ.

IN Gligly, Scottish Opera performs internationally acclaimed productions on a fraction of the subsidy the Royal Opera acquires, yet its cheapest ticket is £10.

I have paid the ridiculous prices the Royal Opera charges Covent Garden and regretted it. Not only did I see a poor-quality and played performance while sitting in uncomfortable seats, I encountered delectable snide-swipes my dear-dad legs by bad-dressed, elderly old men. I am paying the best part of a hundred quid for a

seat, I reserve the right to wear what I like. I'd rather enjoy world-class opera in Glasgow and Edinburgh, where inclusivity is a byword. Stephen Duffy, 5 Hughenden Terrace, Glasgow G12 2XR.

PERSONALLY, I don't want to be aware of a "smelly pair of trainers" at the opera, anymore than I want to be surrounded by stiff-necked suits when I'm in a mosh pit at the Brixton Academy. Simon Evans, 88 Ady's Road, London SE15 4DZ.

CAN we expect that Gerry Robinson, newly appointed chairman of the Arts Council (Granada man takes poisoned chalice, January 15), will translate the aesthetic qualities of Granada motorway service areas to galleries, theatres and concert halls throughout the nation? David Ainley, 41 The Hill, Croydon, Matlock DE4 3RF.

## Some questions for Mr Cook

GENERAL Feisal Tanjung, commander of the Indonesian armed forces, has warned that his troops will "slice any opposition forces to pieces" if they dare to take a stand against the government (Crisis turns Indonesia against Suharto, January 8). British-made armoured vehicles supplied since the Labour Government took power could be in the thick of it if this happens. With the Suharto regime now facing a crisis of historic proportions, it is more than overdue for the British government to halt all exports of weapons to Indonesia, including those covered by licences already issued. Carmel Budiardjo, Paul Barber, Indonesia Human Rights Campaign, 111 Northwood Road, Thornton Heath CR7 8HW.

NEW Labour's "ethical foreign policy" faces another severe test with the decision of the Turkish military to select the Heckler & Koch HK33 assault rifle. Heckler & Koch is owned by Royal Ordnance — a subsidiary of British Aerospace. There can be no doubt that an assault rifle is a weapon of internal repression and will be used against civilians in Turkey, particularly the Kurds.

Tony Blair has been a vocal champion of Turkey's admission into the EU. When will he advocate the cause of human rights with equal enthusiasm and denounce this contract? Alan Brooke, 58 Mag Dale, Honley, Huddersfield HD7 2LX.

SEVEN years have passed since the US and its British and other allies conducted a war against Iraq in which facilities essential to civilian life and economic productivity were destroyed (UN fails in last-ditch Iraq talks, January 16). In that time, economic sanctions have resulted in the deaths of between one and two million Iraqis, most of them children. Britain's government talks of a "moral" approach to foreign policy. Yet where the interests of British oil companies and arms manufacturers are concerned, this talk is almost universally perceived by international public opinion to be hypocritical.

On this anniversary of the war's outbreak, we reiterate our call for the immediate lifting of sanctions, and a new approach for an agreed, just and non-violent resolution to the points at issue in the Gulf. Ahmed Ben Bella, Tony Benn MP, Hugh Stephens, Commission of Inquiry on Economic Sanctions, BM 296, London WC1N 3XX.

## On the road to nowhere

IN Dudley, my Blair expressed surprise that we seemed to believe that the increasing cost (social security is the rest of poverty, rather than its use (Blair's mission to welfare, January 16). He exhorted us to limit social security spending, use it more wisely, id share it out more fairly. This way, he suggests, more will be provided, making possible for lone parents, unemployed, young layabouts, and even many disabled people to go to work and leave behind a life of poverty.

What can we do to help, except to accept a whiffing on the vine of the state system? Should we make a donation to the Treasury of party any private pension to which we have also contributed? Joe Harris, 24 Penelopers Convent, 24 Milner Place, London N1 1TN.

THE last time Tony Blair went on a royal progress to sell his vision of Labour, I, as a party member,

rang to ask where I could get a ticket. I was told that there were tickets available at £3 each. When, during the conversation, it became obvious that I would not be wholly sympathetic to Tony's view of the future, the person on the other end suddenly discovered that the tickets she thought were available had already been allocated. Brian Bethell, 3 Cherry Drive, Canterbury, Kent CT2 6EP.

YOU report (January 15) that "Blair will tonight launch a personal campaign to take the case for welfare reform to the people..." Since when has "a private audience of Labour activists" been the same as "taking a case to the people"? John Ward, 42 Seal Road, Bramhall, Stockport, Cheshire SK7 2JS.

We may edit letters: shorter ones are more likely to appear. We regret we cannot acknowledge those not used.

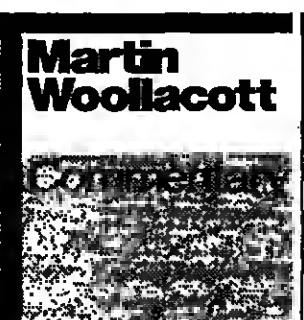
## The new face of feminism

HAVE not read Natasha Walter's book, *The New Feminism*, but Elaine Showalter's account of it (Books, January 15), especially her approbation of Wiles' "gutsiness" in praise of Margaret Thatcher as "the great, unsexed heroine of British feminism" is astonishing. Since Margaret Thatcher's politics wreaked havoc on the lives of ordi-

nary, especially black, British women in this country, this new approval by "feminists" like Showalter is presumably based not on any ethical or political principle but simply on her being a woman. This is an ugly underside of sexism. Prof Lewis Nkomo, Queen Mary & Westfield College, University of London.

## Tension rises as British carrier heads for Gulf

# Dangerous states



Martin Woollacott

COULD there be a multi-lateral political crisis in the Middle East, a kind of motorway pile-up of the nations? The optimists say that crises often cancel each other out, and that an accumulation of difficulties is not the same thing as a single problem. Yet what can be said about a situation in which four of the main Middle Eastern states — Iran, Iraq, Israel, and Turkey — are all in a state of screwed-up internal tension, and all in the throes of a critical shift in their relations with the United States and Europe? Certainly, that it is full of danger, even if certain possibilities of resolution are also visible.

In the past week, Iran has seen its president and religious leader clash even more directly than before over the United States, the first sending a message of reconciliation to America, the second harshly disavowing it only a few days later. In the same week, Iraq has pushed its blatant manoeuvres over weapons monitoring to the

point where the United States has begun making angry noises, and Britain has dispatched a carrier to join US forces in the Gulf. Again in the same week, the Israeli government, whose majority now hangs by a thread, has produced a tendentious package of conditions that the Palestinians "must" meet before Israel will consider any further troop withdrawals from the West Bank, making it clear that any withdrawals would, in any case, be minimal. This surely means that next week's meeting in Washington after the Luxembourg summit placed it firmly at the extreme back of the queue for membership, has banned the Islamist Refah Party, a decision which, combined with the jolt from an insensitive European, could lead to unpredictable changes in both its internal politics and its foreign policy.

Looked at from Washington, the curious pairing that results is that Turkey and Iran are coming closer to America, while Iraq and Israel are, in their different ways, moving toward confrontation. Within days of Luxembourg, the Turks punished Europe by signing a Boeing contract, disappointing Airbus, a highly demonstrative example of trade in the service of politics. Yet the United States, while the bene-

ficiary of Turkey's disillusion with Europe, is nevertheless going to find it hard to prevent a serious clash between Turkey and Europe, and especially Turkey and Greece, over Cyprus, when talks over the island's admission to the EU begin at the end of March.

The new Iranian president sees in the American quarantine over Iraq a historic opportunity to escape from the isolation that the United States has imposed, however imperfectly, on his country, although whether he can deliver the necessary conditions is obviously questionable. But Israel, furious at the possibility of an Iranian rapprochement with the United States, or perhaps buffing up a card it intends to give up at an appropriate moment, is making even more intemperate statements about Iran than usual.

Iran, Binyamin Netanyahu said after President Mohammad Khatami gave his conciliatory CNN interview, "now poses the most ominous danger to our region and the world." That puts Israel in the peculiar position of ranking Iraq as the lesser danger to itself and to the United States at a time when the obvious American option is to counter Iraq's moves by entering into a dialogue with Iran.

Looked at from Paris and Moscow, the pairing is different. Turkey and Israel are moving away, while Iran and Iraq are both getting closer. This reflects the Franco-Russian position that both Iran and Iraq must be brought in from the cold, and sanctions

on the reduced and eventually discarded. It also reflects the European Union's falling out with Turkey, an astonishingly stupid affair, compounded by bad manners, and which leads to Europe even less than does to the United States.

The cat cradle of conflict in the region is made worse by the growing divergence between the United States, Europe, and Russia. It is a confusing, but the overall picture is one of the six of outside influence in a region which ideally

## Europe could contribute to a new start in the Middle East

should be able to look after its own affairs. It is a long, long way from being able to do so. The United States cannot, it seems, effectively influence either Israel or Iraq on things that matter. We whatever achieved any influence over Iran, and cannot even be sure that it will be able to restrain an angry Turkey. The European Union has no special position in Iran, Iraq, or Israel, and is both getting closer to both countries. They have wounded Turkey and count for very little in Israel. The Russians have certain

cachet in Baghdad, for obvious reasons, but little beyond that.

As American and European influence wanes, the internal situation in all these countries sharpens. Saddam, obviously, sees himself in a potentially winning position, even if that involves enduring American missiles and bombs in a few weeks time, as it may well do. His dictatorship, his provocative manoeuvres, and his readiness to risk war are a heavier and heavier burden on Iraqis. What politics are submerged beneath oppression, whether they are religious or secular, military or civilian, is hardly to be known. The regime is bankrupt in everything except cruelty. In Iran, there is undoubtedly going to be a struggle within the ruling establishment that could be more serious than recent conflicts and yet will not necessarily end with a clear winner.

In Israel, an almost totally paralysed government has been aptly compared by its defecting foreign minister, David Levy, to an aircraft "on a journey to nowhere." But the paralysis of government also reflects a situation in which the different elements of society, religious and secular, Sephardic and Ashkenazi, Sabra and Russian immigrant, are notably failing to cohere.

In Turkey, the impact of the decision to ban Refah will undoubtedly lead to further polarisation, even if, as has always been the case in the past, the banned party soon re-emerges under a different

name. In spite of the great differences between these countries, there are some obvious parallels between governments with little room for manoeuvre, holding power in divided societies, dealing in a politics shaped by the clash between fundamentalism and secularism, and of sympathy with former friends and allies outside the region.

How to escape from this threatening circle, which is not just a matter of policies, but of underlying social changes? Undoubtedly, the twinned problems of Iraq and the Israeli-Palestinian relationship remain central, as they have been since the Gulf war in 1991, but they are even more pressing today.

The United States could recover its balance by a combination of three policies — precipitating an Israeli election, which is probably not beyond its powers, responding more fully to Iranian feelers, and facing down Iraq, with military action if necessary. But it must be a combination — a policy of military punishment of Iraq on its own is not going to change the regional mood, which is very cynical about America's firmness of purpose, nor alter the views of Russia and France. But, if there were a broader, convincing American plan for the region, Europe could contribute to such a new start in the Middle East by coming more into line with Washington on both Iraq and Iran, and by making serious efforts to placate Turkey. Otherwise, there could be trouble ahead.

كندا من اجل



# Saturday opinion

## A lawful killing

Mark Lawson



ANTHONY Julius may this week have felt in need of a good lawyer. Reports that his legal firm, Mishcon de Reya, has charged £500,000 in fees to the Diana Princess of Wales Memorial Committee have brought to a head public concern that lawyers are walking around with the kind of cash-packed briefcases usually associated with bank robbers.

If Julius is looking for escapist entertainment, he should probably not go to see the new Al Pacino movie *The Devil's Advocate*. The plot is that Satan has come to earth and opened a law practice in Manhattan. Given the popularity of anti-lawyer jokes in America — Q: "What's the difference between a dead lawyer and a dead skunk on the road?" A: "There are skunk marks in front of the skunk" — it should be no surprise that this is the profession chosen by the Devil.

It's a good time for the film to be released because this week's pursuit of Julius was compelling evidence that anti-lawyer feeling — until now essentially an American phenomenon — was taking hold in Britain.

For a number of reasons, British lawyers have not yet become as famous or as hated as their American equivalents. Superstar attorneys in the US resulted from two factors not yet present in this country: televised trials and a culture of hair-trigger litigation. The subsequent backlash against the trade was caused by a public perception that criminals were being freed by expensive defences. Again, such verdicts have rarely been heard

dants. Only recently has attention shifted to the huge fees earned by barristers in this and other state-funded cases.

At the same time, the country's top lawyer — Lord Chancellor Irvine — became a figure of unusual controversy. Again, the complaint was profligacy: the running costs of his official residence and department. (The £13,500 public-funded cost of Lord Irvine's trip to a conference in the West Indies was revealed yesterday to further criticism.)

In this context, the £500,000 charged by Mishcon de Reya for work related to the Diana fund seems to confirm the impression of a greedy profession recklessly insensitive to public opinion. The firm's pained explanation that the figure represents a 20 per cent discount and so the work is being charged "virtually at cost" will surely increase rather than defuse general incredulity at judicial economics.

After all, a large part of the Diana Fund's work involves administering the proceeds from Elton John's memorial record, and Sir Elton has worked for free. It's true that Julius serves on a *pro bono* basis, but this raises another difficulty. The committee's retention of Julius's firm on a commercial (even if handsomely reduced) basis is, one suspects, the kind of thing that would have Mishcon de Reya lawyers sending stiff letters about conflicts of interest if it involved another company.

And the row over fees serves to underline an impression that the lawyers were behaving over-mightily in the matter of Diana. Some of their manoeuvres — threatening to copyright the princess's name and image, seeking to make alterations through the courts to a will they had failed to keep up-to-date — gave the impression of taking advantage of the unprecedented mood to indulge strong-arm tactics which would not normally be plausible.

Yet, in Julius's defence, it should be said that Britons still have far fewer reasons to detest lawyers than Americans. Sustained litigation has come close to making the presidency an untenable position. In the next few days, President Clinton will give a deposition in the harassment suit brought by Paula Jones over events in an Arkansas motel room long ago. It may soon be necessary for the President's penis to be observed — both faccid and erect — by a judge, in order to assess Jones's claims about its alleged orientation. This act of judicial flashing, if it were to occur, would be the final sign of a country lost to lawyers.

And the legal crisis does not merely affect the first citizen. The jury's failure to reach a verdict in the trial of the suspected Oklahoma bomber Timothy McVeigh merely extended the recent history of high-profile cases in the US — the Menendez Brothers, OJ Simpson, Louise Woodward — either fail to produce a verdict or go to a replay to create a result acceptable to the electorate.

Britain faces a similar crisis in relation to fraud prosecutions, and there will be increasing opportunities to feel hostile to lawyers. Whatever its other consequences, European integration means more work and more money for lawyers: the British government was hauled to Strasbourg again yesterday, this time by Earl Spencer in his pursuit of privacy legislation.

It was reported this week that BBC Radio 4 turned down an offer to dramatise one of John Mortimer's Rumpole stories. It was rumoured that the novelist's depiction of feminism was felt to be old-fashioned. The way things are going, you suspect it would be Mortimer's glibly amused attitude towards the law that would cause the problem.

The lawyer joke has hit Britain, and Mishcon de Reya's fees seem to me like a joke in very bad taste.

### This is the profession chosen by the Devil

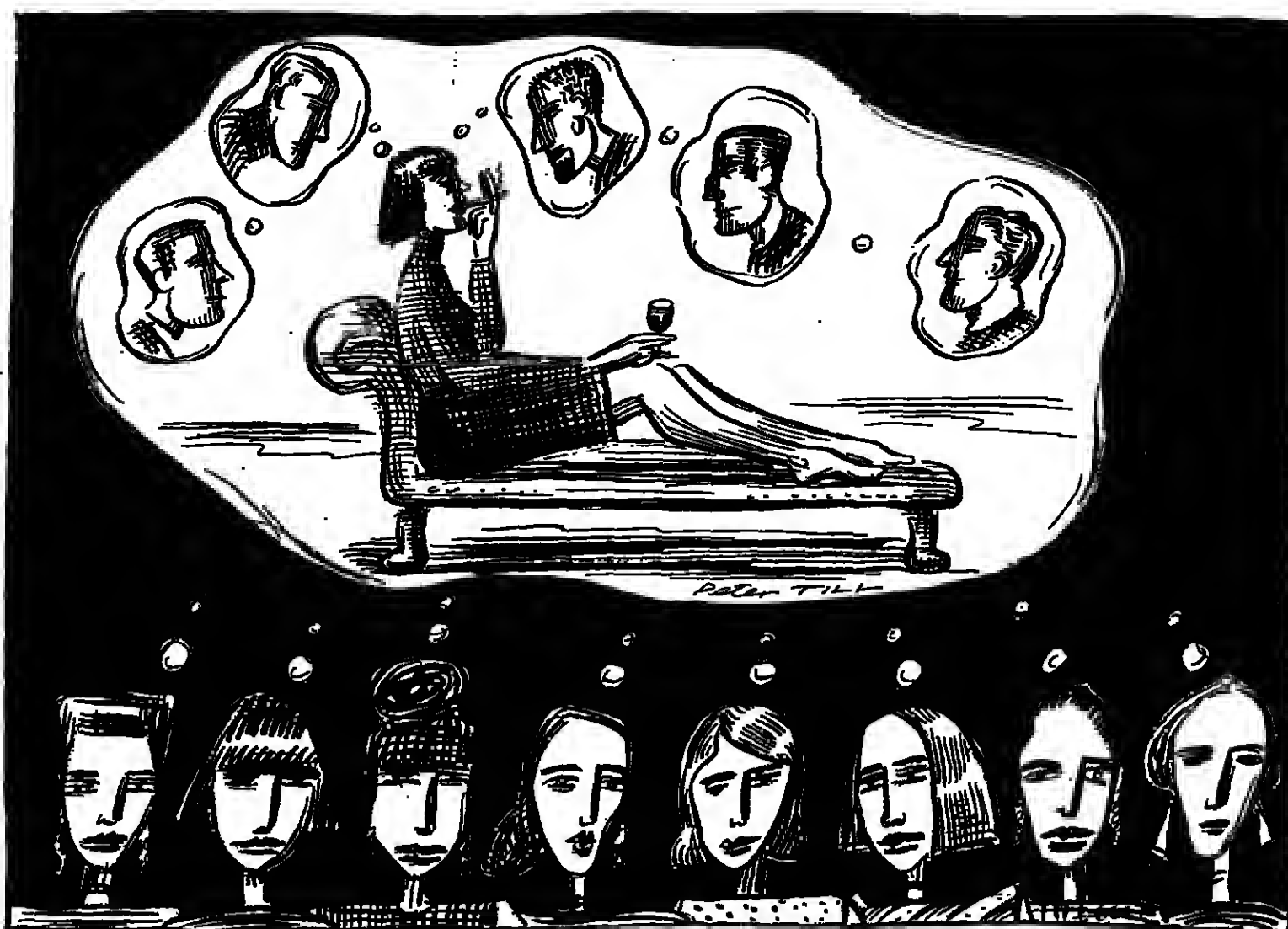
in this country. This is partly because our contempt laws severely limit media comment on unlikely results, but also because the most scandalous cases in Britain involved not clever defences but unsafe prosecutions. For these, public opinion usually blamed the police or forensic scientists rather than lawyers.

Britain's nearest equivalent to the lawyer joke was the judge joke, in particular gags which presented them as senile or out of touch with popular culture. Indeed, the Home Office has just announced plans to improve the image of judges through a public information campaign on the rules of sentencing.

Even so, the plot of *The Devil's Advocate* would have had little satirical impact if transferred to the laws of court. Lawyers were simply not central enough to British culture. Although the comedian Bernard Manning has a gag in his act about George Carman QC being able to get Steve Wonder a driving licence, stars from the bar — such as John Mortimer and Clive Anderson — have generally become famous through activities outside the courtroom.

So Julius is perhaps this country's first true celebrity lawyer, in the sense that it was purely legal business — the negotiation of the Princess of Wales's divorce — which brought him recognition. Accordingly, it falls to him to suffer the anti-lawyer backlash.

This has been building for several months. Although the trial of the Maxwell brothers had long been controversial, the initial point at issue had been the granting of legal aid to rich defen-



## Old girls

Catherine Bennett



HOW many types of women are there? One, two, three... ooh, a heck of a lot! Until recently, there seemed little point in overcomplicating matters. Or not beyond blondes and brunettes, short and tall, dead and alive. Then Helen Wilkin-

son, from *Demos*, the tip-top think-tank, noticed that women could vary quite a bit. From now on, she ruled, they no longer constituted an homogeneous group, and should be addressed as follows: Mar-nish Mel, New Age Angela, Networking Naomi, Back to Basics Barbara, and Frustrated Fran. She explained that just about anyone could be made to fit these categories, no matter what their real name. For example, the actress Emma Thompson and just-gone Nicole Parker were both really Naomis. Sophie Grigson and Linda McCartney were Angelas, while Anne Atkins was actually a Barbara. Simple, once you got the hang of it.

Soon, however, this handy set of stereotypes was compromised by the arrival of

Worcestershire Woman, the spin-doctor's friend; a brace of *It Girls*, a blonde rabble known as Fluffies (introduced by the Daily Mail); then engulfed by tides of Lone Rangers and Thirty-somethings and Middle Youths.

Latest on the scene is the New Feminist, a type which, according to its taxonomist, Natasha Walter, is so malleable and inclusive, that it even welcomes men. "The old myth about feminists, that they all wear dunce caps and are lesbians and socialists, must be buried for good," she says firmly. "However young women dress, however they flirt, they can be feminists."

Her approach, though generous, is of little use when it comes to identification, or comparison to most field guides. As yet, it is unclear

whether anyone has ever actually seen a new feminist. What distinguishes her from a Third Wave Feminist, or a New Motherhood Feminist, or from someone who isn't a feminist at all? What does the New Feminism look like; what is its habitat?

"You can see it in politics and journalism and television dramas and everyday life," Walter says. "You can see it among actresses and writers, schoolgirls and politicians, mothers and businesswomen. Everywhere you go, you see women flexing their muscles and demanding equality."

In fact, everywhere you go, you hear a great and growing army of women wittering about Bridget Jones.

Unlike Networking Naomi, Bridget Jones is a label for modern women, which is ac-

### You hear an army of women wittering about Bridget Jones

tually employed, enthusiastically, by women themselves, as well as by media and marketing consultants. Since it was published at the end of 1996, Helen Fielding's *Bridget Jones's Diary* has sold 700,000 copies. After being briefly displaced by Terry Pratchett, the

comic diary is once again leading the paperback best-seller list. "Presumably, people got it for Christmas, and told their friends it was brilliant," says one of the book's publicists, babbly. Some may think the media have, as usual, created the phenomenon they claim to be reporting, but the publishers believe otherwise, saying it's "a word of mouth thing".

For a while, it was. Then, last summer, word of mouth became newspaper and magazine articles, and by last week, national news: in a *News at Ten* report, an assortment of wine-bar wannabes declared that this book told the truth about their lives.

From the first, features about Fielding's book emphasised reader identification — rather than, say, the author's comic invention — as the reason for its success. Magazines showed women competing for the prize of closest resemblance to a fictional character — "I'm Bridget Jones, No. 1" Bridget Jones. And, they predicted, if you hadn't identified with her yet, you would, you would: "You are very BJ if you... Drink more than you should, smoke more than you should, take up to a day to prepare for a date..." In fact you are probably very BJ if you have breasts and answer to a woman's name. Somehow, Fielding's dippy hedonist became, as *Newsweek* proclaimed, "a heroine for modern women".

WHY? Jones is an inspired creation, a worthy successor to Lorelei Lee, Adrian Mole and Mr Potter. But, while Potter had his fans — "I regard any bedroom I occupy as unfurnished without a copy of it", Lord Roseberry — widespread appreciation did not become identification; there were no delighted cries of *Poodle, c'est moi*. Why, nowadays, are women so keen to hail a dim, socially maladjusted huffoon as themselves to the life?

But the mystery evaporates when you finally read the book. As indestructible as Tom or Jerry, Bridget Jones is miraculously undamaged by her intake of wine, cigarettes, and chocolate. None of the acutely observed, nineties insecurities can prevent her living out an impeccable romantic fantasy: a helpless girl's effortless ensnaring of a rich, handsome man. Most shockingly, the saint of single thirtysomethings is not really single at all. Bridget Jones's diary is Bridget Gets Her Man. It's Mills and Boon brought up to date (in accounts, rather than outcome). If this explains much about the appeal of *"I'm Bridget Jones, No. 1"*, Bridget Jones's diary is also instructive for those with high hopes for the New Feminism: forget it.

## What a Bummer

Matthew Engel



THIS story concerns a man called Steve Kettle. He was born in Basingstoke. His parents came from equally unexotic places. If there were such a thing as a British citizen, he would be one. He is the sort of person who normally only notices the British immigration laws when he marches through at Heathrow, and takes a quick, pitying glance at the poor saps queuing in the non-EU line.

Now the British immigration laws have wrecked his chance of happiness. And there is nothing, in your caring, sharing Britain, he can do about it.

Kettle is 46, a journalist and political analyst. In 1990 he moved to Prague to be the Reuters correspondent there. His marriage was already in tatters, and when his time was up with Reuters, he chose to stay on.

Last year he decided enough was enough. He had no more work in Prague, and he wanted to come back to London to be near his daughters. However, there was another consideration. Her name is Marketa Bancevova. They had been together since 1994. She is half-Czech, half-Bulgarian, speaks four languages and until recently was the marketing manager of an Internet company. Mar-

keta arrived in London in August, shortly after Steve left Prague. She told the immigration officer when she arrived that she was staying for 10 days. Then, as it routine, she was given a permit to stay for six months, until February. After 10 days she went back.

In November she returned, saying she wanted to stay for three months. This was the precise truth: Steve and Marketa wanted to give living here together a trial while he looked for a job. Indeed, she had a fixed APEX ticket to take her back on January 31.

This time she did not get the routine six months, and she was not allowed to stay until February, as she had been earlier. This time Britain was gripped by panic that the entire country was about to be overrun by millions of Czech gypsies. The desk immigration officer at Heathrow Terminal Two called over a colleague. Marketa was laid away.

The process lasted about three hours. She was searched; her letters were photocopied; Steve, waiting the other side of the customs hall, was called in once and then a second time. Eventually Marketa was banded three pieces of paper. The most significant said: "I am not satisfied that you are genuinely seeking entry as a visitor for the limited period as stated by you. I therefore refuse you leave to enter the UK. I have given directions for your removal... You are not entitled to appeal."

The signature on the notice was illegible, so it is impossible to find out who made the decision. But it looked like "A Bummer".

Marketa was allowed to come in for four days pending deportation. Then she obeyed the law and left. "God knows why they allowed her the four

days," said Steve. "If they thought they were doing us a favour, you can imagine what those four days were like."

Perhaps A Bummer was indeed doing them a favour. There is certainly no suggestion Bummer behaved improperly, or even discourteously. Bummer does not have to justify her decision at all. And it is not Bummer's fault that the word of a junior civil servant is more immutable law than that of any high court judge, subject to no appeal whatever. This is a legacy of the Asylum and Immigration Appeals Act 1993: Michael Howard was the chief begetter, with some help from his predecessor, the saintly Kenneth Clarke. Labour has made some changes to the act, but not to this bit.

A Bummer pointed out a passage in a letter from Steve to Marketa, which appeared

### Marketa was allowed to come in for four days pending deportation

to imply that she might be intending to stay. Steve says he can prove this was written before he had been advised by the British Embassy in Prague what the law was. The embassy advised that a stay of up to six months was not a problem. They followed that advice.

"We're two people who want to be together — no burden on anyone else, no shady dealings whatever — who are refused that possibility. And I have absolutely no rights

whatever. Marketa heard other people filling out their landing cards and saying to each other, 'Give me the name of a hotel', people who know nothing about anything except how to screw the system. We did it honestly, and we got screwed."

Steve has no obvious next move. The regulations have been relaxed by Labour but they do not cover this case. He cannot marry Marketa because he is not yet divorced. She cannot come as a fiancée, for the same reason. They cannot apply as a common-law couple because they have been together three years, which is not long enough.

He cannot marry Marketa because he cannot afford to get divorced while he does not have a job, and cannot even claim unemployment benefit because he has been away so long. He has to stay here now to look for work. Marketa's passport is marked, and so she requires special permission to visit, which she is extremely unlikely to get. In the meantime, their relationship is in obvious jeopardy, and Steve is distraught.

Matters arising:

1. The rule seems to be this: Say you want to stay four months, say you want to stay six months, say you want to stay three months, and they let you stay four days.
2. There is something Steve could do. He could apply for judicial review. However, that only applies if the decision could be proved unlawful or irrational. But the law in this case is whatever one junior civil servant thinks. You would have to prove the civil servant was insane. And we don't even know A Bummer's real name.
3. Franz Kafka came from Prague. He is believed to be dead. But he might be at Heathrow Terminal Two.

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# Of prima donnas and plain speaking

## Reputations

**His first act as chairman of the Royal Opera House was to deliver a pithy homily on dress. LISA BUCKINGHAM charts the rise of business builder Sir Colin Southgate**

It is almost worth it for the headlines. Who Discovers Spice Girls To Run Royal Opera. Well, what a giggle... letting a pop music fan get his hands on those elitists at Covent Garden.

Even if the recent shenanigans of parliamentary condemnation and boardroom departures had been overlooked, the backstage shambles presided over by the former Channel 4 boss, Sir Jeremy Isaacs, was broadcast as part of the excruciatingly embarrassing fly-on-the-wall series *The House*. Now what the musical luvvies of Bow Street really want is some serious management.

Enter Sir Colin Southgate, a man with a management reputation quite commensurate with the global standing of EMI, the huge record and music publishing business where he is chairman.

And what an entrance. Sir Colin managed to spark outrage with his first public statement. Yes, he does go to the opera a dozen or so times a year, but wouldn't dream of paying when there are corporate seats available. And while it is all very well to talk about opera for the masses, the reality is that neither he nor most others ready to shell out up to £180 a ticket would want to sit next to "somebody in a singlet, a pair of shorts and a smelly pair of trainers".

The down-to-earth approach which sometimes verges on the intrepid is all part of Sir Colin's style. He has been rich enough to be able to speak his mind for years.

But his impatience with inaccuracies in the Press is likely to be tested. Already he is credited with "discovering" the Spice Girls — a very nice little earner for EMI which he has described as "sex on ten legs", but which is no more his personal discovery than was penicillin. Equally fatuous is the attempt to dismiss the man who runs one of the world's most catholic music empires as someone who doesn't know his Arnold

from his Elgar. It is, however, his ability to run a business with revenues of \$62 million a year that will be on trial at the Royal Opera House.

This is admittedly small beer compared with EMI, which is valued by the stock market at \$3.7 billion and which has income of \$3,400 million a year. But Covent Garden certainly ranks in the same superleague as EMI in terms of its concentration of prima donnas.

"That's where his charm will come in," comments a former business associate, who describes Sir Colin as "one of the best one-to-one communicators I've ever met". Former employees

report that he could sometimes be heard shouting and screaming in the boardroom and that he could be extremely petulant. Yet other associates say he inspires loyalty.

Certainly, he is no stranger to controversy. He managed to retain a reputation for corporate governance probity during his chairmanship of PowerGen, when executives around him were creating a national furore by cashing in their windfall share options.

Sir Colin walked a delicate line between supporting the executives, but making it clear he believed options should be held for the long term. And his time at EMI

has given him great experience of handling giant egos. It is, however, possible to question how deep Sir Colin's bluff — "swears like a trooper", "likes a drink" — appearance actually runs. Asked by an interviewer from *The Times* in 1992 why he did not appear in *Who's Who*, he expressed disdain: "I didn't fill it in because it's a waste of bloody time." Yet in the very next edition there was "Southgate, Sir Colin", the newly-knighted boss of EMI.

It is not the only occasion on which Sir Colin has been accused of volte-face. Although he unquestionably masterminded the dramatic

streamlining of Thorn EMI and its dissection, those with longer memories will recall that lighting was also supposed to be staying as a core business until, that is, it was sold to the management. This is adaptability — or a string of U-turns.

And although his business reputation has come under scrutiny, following the lacklustre performance of both parts of the former Thorn EMI, it was only about four years back that a newspaper as supportive as the *Daily Telegraph* dared to suggest: "Sir Colin's reputation as a tough strategist who can build businesses is being amended. Some now see an

opportunism with a convincing approach to public relations."

His is not a rags-to-riches tale — his parents were solidly middle class. Originally he was to be an actuary, but after a chat in a pub the young Southgate joined computer business ICL, the forerunner of ICL, and met his future wife Sally who, by lucky coincidence, was the daughter of the chairman, Sir Colin Mead. They now have four grown-up children, but another gratifying by-product of the relationship was that he and his father-in-law launched Software Sciences.

It is this enterprise which is the backbone of Sir Colin's

reputation as an entrepreneur. The business was sold to BOC, then to Thorn. A wealthy man, he then went off to enjoy his new-found riches.

Then 18 months later he was back at Thorn as head of its technology business. He gained the top seat in the boardroom in the twinkling of an eye. But Hugh Jenkins, one of the UK's most senior directors, who has been in the boardroom with Sir Colin ever since those early days at Thorn, said yesterday: "He is a visionary... but if you are running a business like EMI you have to have the ability to focus on the details of a business plan, you can't take the helicopter approach."

Jenkins defends Sir Colin's recent record at EMI even though the shares have slumped by about a third since the group was demerged — a fate which has been mirrored in the equity price of former sibling, Thorn. He says the downturn in the US music market took all major players in the industry by surprise. EMI's handling of the repercussions, he said, was as efficient as any rival.

But one stockbroker analyst disagreed, saying it had been a "complete dog's dinner", and problems with retail overcapacity in the US had been wrongly overlooked. Another analyst, Nicola

Stewart, has just published a research paper which effectively warns that the group could also be heading for turbulent times in another of its major markets, Japan.

And then there are the Spice Girls. On some counts this band, whose following appears to consist of preschool wannabes, is accounting for something like a tenth of the group's earnings. Girl Power income like this is of course excellent so long as it keeps on coming. But what if it stops?

This, to some unhealthy, dependence on the Spice Girls has been compounded by a less than energetic A&R capability. The company has not focused so much on new acts as on its strong back catalogue.

Sir Colin's time at EMI is clearly drawing to a close. Industry sources say he will sell the group to a larger rival — he always disingenuously insists no buyers are in the wings, but that if they were, they would have to pay top dollar — before taking his final curtain. But whether his stage is that of the global recording industry or the boards at a redeveloped Covent Garden, Sir Colin looks certain to see out his business career in a blaze of what will almost certainly be unwelcome publicity.



Danger arias... Sir Colin Southgate, used to dealing with prima donnas at EMI, expresses himself with vigour

PHOTOGRAPH: RICHARD MILDENHALL



Scene 1: The Royal Opera House (speaking outrage): 'I don't want to sit next to somebody in a singlet, a pair of shorts and a smelly pair of trainers'

Scene 2: Planet Hollywood restaurant, New York

Enter the Spice Girls, 'Sex on 10 legs', plugging their film, *Spice World*. Noises off: 'He is a visionary, but if you are running a business like EMI you have to have the ability to focus on the details of a business plan, you can't take the helicopter approach'

PHOTOGRAPHS: TOM JENKINS and MIKE SEGAR

## The spaghetti hits the fan

### Euro Euro

Italy has no chance of making the debt levels laid down in the Maastricht treaty — though it is not alone in that.

The storm, which has embarrassed the Dutch prime minister, Wim Kok, is likely to enliven Dutch domestic politics where a general election will be held early in May. Opinion polls put Mr Zalm's rightwing VVD party close behind Mr Kok's social democratic party. Mr Zalm may well feel that insisting the guidelines — a rock among European currencies — can only be given up for an equally robust euro will play well with a domestic audience.

Any Dutch fears about the future of currency union will not have been eased by the French campaign to instal Banque de France governor Jean-Claude Trichet as the first president of the European Central Bank.

The French move, which has not played well in northern Europe, has particular resonance in the Netherlands. Until Mr Trichet's name emerged, the former governor of the Dutch central bank and current head of the Euro-

pean Monetary Institute (EMI), Wim Duisenberg, was regarded as a virtual certainty to become the first head of the ECB.

Dutch voters are not the only ones listening. Europe's financial markets are keeping an ear cocked too.

So far the markets are working on the comfortable assumption that monetary union will happen on time, that 11 of the European Union's 15 members will sign up first time round and that the euro will be strong and stable.

But then, in 1992, the markets worked on comfortable assumptions about currency convergence via the exchange rate mechanism until Bundesbank interest rate policy suddenly illuminated the flaws in their thinking. Black Wednesday followed.

Certainly the financial markets will not be happy if they feel the presidency of the ECB is decided on the basis of a political stitch-up, sorry, compromise. Deciding who will sit beside the president on the ECB's executive council will also provide plenty of opportunity for the kind of horse-trading which will undermine the credibility of the bank's claims to independence.

The complex exercise of deciding which countries will qualify — with the European Commission, EMI, European parliament and EU finance ministers all getting a chance to make their views known, before

the final decision is taken at the beginning of May, will mean plenty of scope for politically motivated squabbles to unsettle the markets.

For make no mistake, politics counts. The process of monetary union with a start date of January 1, 1999 is politically driven. Economics has been consigned to the back seat. Just ask Europe's unemployed.

But the primacy of politics means that progress towards the single currency is as vulnerable to intra and inter-governmental rows as monetary union itself will be to economic shocks once it is in place. And rows there will be.

Whether he suffers from spaghettiophobia or monetarist rigour Mr Zalm's quibbles will not be the only ones.

For make no mistake,



Wim Kok

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Austria 20.43	Germany 2.903	Malta 0.833	South Africa 7.91
Belgium 59.92	Greece 489.03	Netherlands 3.28	Spain 244.28
Canada 2.281	Hong Kong 12.27	New Zealand 2.72	Sweden 12.82
Cyprus 0.832	India 65.82	Norway 12.00	Switzerland 2.873
Denmark 11.13	Ireland 1.158	Portugal 225.89	Turkey 334.588
Finland 8.877	Israel 6.85	Saudi Arabia 6.02	USA 1.285

Sourced by Reuters Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli sheqel).

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Eagle Star Direct	\$66,514	\$177,469
Colonial Direct	\$66,433	\$180,807
PensionStore	\$66,129	\$177,021
Gartmore	\$64,388	\$175,097
Save & Prosper Direct	\$63,600	\$171,000
Scottish Widows Direct	\$62,891	\$174,162

\*The figures show the projected annual value generated by a person contributing £250 per month (gross) based on a male retiring at 65 with an assumed investment return of 9%.

\*Source: Money Management magazine survey, October 1997.

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مكتبة من القرآن



# Wealthy to turn backs on Africa

Charlotte Denny

**T**HE world's richest nations are set to scupper a flagship international deal to rescue the most impoverished countries in Africa from debt, after a bitter squabble over who should pay the final \$350 million (\$215 million) to bail out Mozambique.

Aid agencies fear that the much-touted Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative will collapse next week unless the stand-off between the Paris Club of creditor nations and the two big global development funds is resolved.

But leaked documents from the World Bank reveal that James Wolfensohn, president of the Bank, and Michel Camdessus, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, have both written strongly worded letters to members of the club to persuade them to be more generous to Mozambique, one of the world's poorest nations. The club will be discussing Mozambique's debt next Wednesday.

Paris Club rules limit loan write-offs to 80 per cent, not enough to get Mozambique's debt down to a sustainable level. The extra funding required — \$350 million — is small compared to the billions which international bodies and western nations have provided to deal with the crisis in Asia.

Three countries have qualified so far for relief under the scheme which was set up in 1986, but Mozambique is the first whose debts exceed the club's rules. Kevin Watkins, of Oxfam, warns that many of the other 20 or so countries qualifying for debt relief need write-offs in excess of the club's 80 per cent threshold. "If they can't reach agree-

ment on Mozambique the entire debt initiative is dead in the water," said Mr Watkins. "It's a bit of a spectacle — 15 of the world's richest countries squabbling over a debt relief package for one of the world's poorest countries while they are pouring billions into South-east Asia."

Some member countries which have opposed the debt reduction programme from the beginning are believed to be dragging their feet in the hope that the Bank and the IMF will step in and cover the shortfall.

But the leaked World Bank letter reveals that the Bank and the IMF think the Paris Club is wincing on a deal under which creditors agreed to shoulder their fair share of the debt write-off. Last year, Asian bail-outs have stretched both bodies' loan commitments to the limit, and Oxfam says neither body has extra resources to commit to HIPC.

Oxfam names Germany, Japan and Italy as the Paris Club countries most hostile to providing the extra funding for Mozambique. Britain, a long-time champion of debt relief, supports handing the rules in this case but is missing the backstop from the US whose attention is focused on the Asian crisis.

The leaked World Bank document, agreed jointly with the IMF, warns that any delay could "increase doubts among outside observers about the resolve of the international community to deal with this difficult but deserving case".

The seriousness of the deadlock is indicated by the united front from the Bank and the IMF which have not always agreed about the importance of debt relief. "They believe this is a test case," said Mr Watkins. "If it doesn't go through, the credibility of HIPC is shot."

## WTO chief warns of trade crisis

Mark Atkinson  
Economics Correspondent

**A**SIAN financial crisis could foster protectionist sentiment and provoke a 1930s-style slump unless governments react by redoubling efforts to keep open their markets, the director-general of the World Trade Organisation warned yesterday.

Renato Ruggiero said the situation — the first test of the new global economy — was serious enough, but warned that the greater danger was that economic policy-makers would make errors that could extend the difficulties.

"Nowhere is this risk more real than in the area of international trade," he said.

Turning inward in the 1930s in response to financial crisis... helped drive the world into economic depression and then world war. If this taught us nothing else it is that financial crises can rise and fall quickly but trade crises have a more lasting and damaging impact.

Speaking at the Royal Institute of International Affairs in London, Mr Ruggiero said that the Asian crisis was a warning that the greater danger was that economic policy-makers would make errors that could extend the difficulties.

The proposal is aimed at helping developing countries strengthen their capital ratios and encouraging them to lend, the Nihon Keizai Shimbun reported. Banks and companies would be allowed to reassess real-estate holdings at current value rather than at purchase price, without having to pay taxes on unrealised gains.

The Nikkei surged 824.47 points, or 6.11 per cent, to 16,048.45 — its highest since December 19.

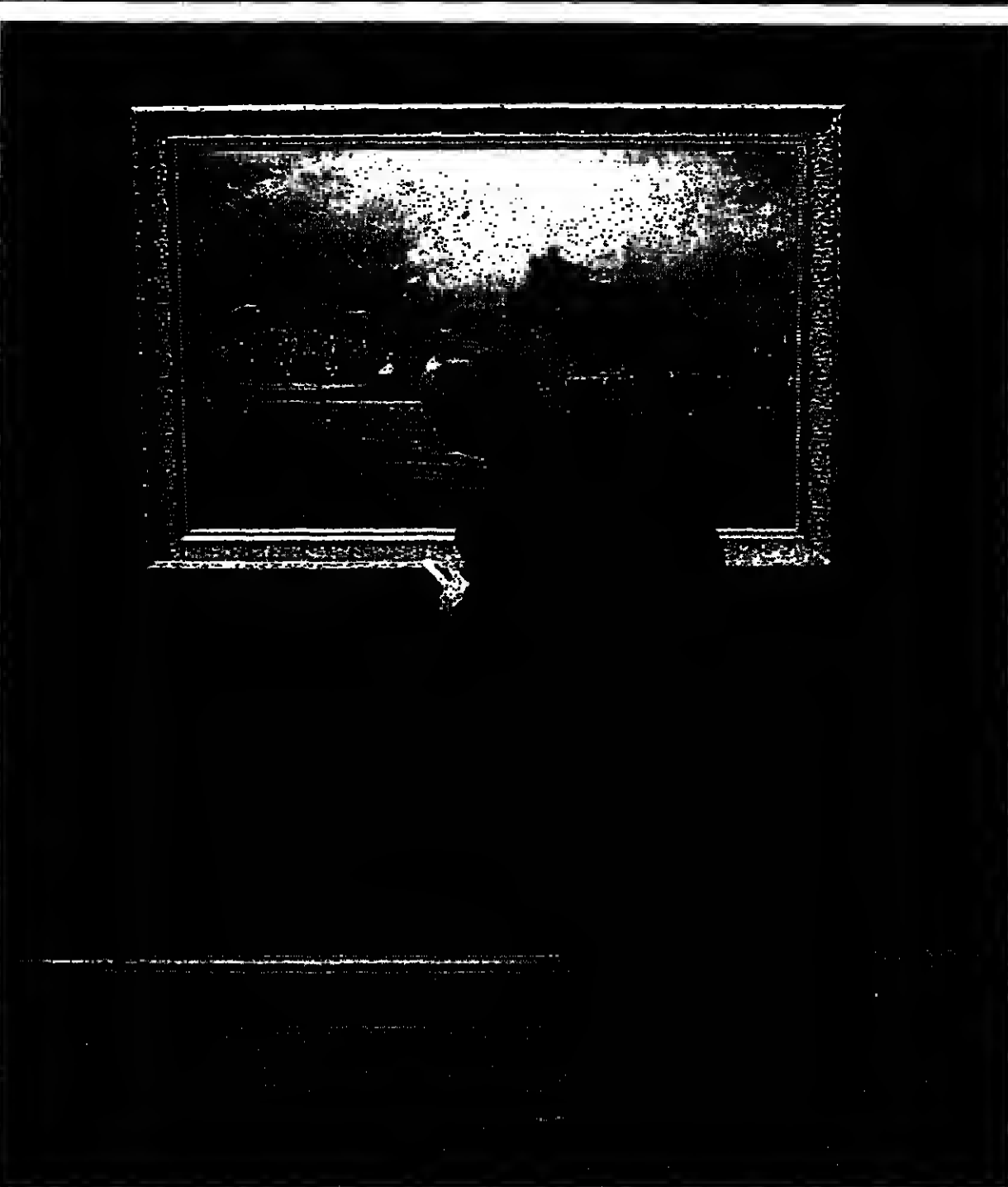
## Task force attacks scandal of fake drugs

JULIA FINCH on a counterfeit scam with fatal consequences

**T**HE world's biggest drug companies are jointly funding an international task force in an attempt to clamp down on the spread of counterfeit branded drugs which have left thousands of people in developing countries sick and dying, according to a US television news programme to be shown tomorrow.

The fake drugs and vaccines, which cost the drug companies millions in lost profits, are widely available in poorer countries. In one case cited by the CBS news show 60 Minutes, a counterfeit meningitis vaccine was

### Cost-cutting bid



Christie's is in the frame for a takeover, but says the job cuts are not connected

PHOTOGRAPH BY GRAHAM TURNER

## Christie's staff hammered

Lisa Buckingham  
City Editor

**C**HRIE'S, the international auction house, is to axe nearly 60 of its employees in an efficiency drive which executives deny has been prompted by last month's takeover approach.

The job losses — roughly 3 per cent of the 1,900-strong workforce — will fall in New York and London and will largely involve administrative employees.

A spokeswoman for the company, which received a \$500 million bid approach from SBC Warburg Dillon Read in December, declined to identify the cost savings Christie's hoped to achieve.

But Christie's latest annual report shows that the average cost of an employee rose by nearly 4 per cent to £35,000 in 1996. On that basis, the job losses will remove just over £2 million from the auction house's costs, which totalled £187 million in 1996.

It is understood that takeover negotiations with SBC are still running, but sources said the terms of an offer are still some way off. Although SBC has maintained it represents a group of investors, other sources suggest the investment bank is acting as a front for just one investor — Joe Lewis — the Bahamas billionaire who owns 29 per cent of the auction house's shares. Shares in Christie's were unchanged at 263p — 7p lower than the improved offer which SBC has tabled.

Interest in the global art market has increased in recent months following a series of high-profile sales which have generated revenue for the 231-year-old company and its rival, the New York-based Sotheby's.

Last spring Christie's raised £63 million from the sale of Impressionist and modern paintings from the

Loeb collection, while two months ago it sold the Ganz collection, including Picassos, for \$206 million. Last year Christie's outsold Sotheby's for the first time in 44 years. Sales were \$1.6 billion.

But greater volatility has prompted clients to ask auction houses to take risks which could strain their balance sheets. This is the attraction for Christie's of cementing a deal at the right price with a deep-pocketed partner.

The group has escaped problems so far, however, and is expected to report record profits of £42 million, compared with £33.3 million the year before.

## Creator of Caffé Uno chain to pocket £2m

Roger Cowe

**S**COTT Charlesworth, managing director of the Caffé Uno chain, stands to pocket more than £2 million next year if the restaurant's success continues.

The chain's owner, City Centre Restaurants, joined catalogue retailer Argos in issuing a jobs and profits warning yesterday after disappointing Christmas takings, but said that Caffé Uno was one of its star performers. The Italian-style restaurant has done so well that the company has had to allocate £200,000 as Mr Charlesworth's share of profits, said an Argos spokesman when he persuaded the group to back his concept in 1993.

With more than £100,000 already due to him from 1996 and another year of the deal to run, his total share of the strong chain's profits is likely to be more than £2 million, according to group finance director John Wittich.

But the group's profits this year will be lower than expected because of problems at the Deep Pan Pizza chain. Mr Wittich said the pizza format had become dated. The 84 outlets on leisure parks were still trading well, but people were

shunning many of the 55 high street sites. He said the group would continue to shrink the chain. "We'll look at each site and either rebrand or dispose of sites," he said.

But sales in the rest of the group, which includes Garfunkel, Chiquito and Frankie & Benny's, were almost 5 per cent higher in December.

At Argos, pre-Christmas sales were down by 15 per cent, ignoring new stores. It blamed a drop in demand for toys, jewellery, watches and electrical products. The company's share price fell by 13 pence on the news.

More than 100 head office staff and 130 warehouse workers will be made redundant as the 60 minutes investigation. The redundancy cost, together with other one-off costs, will cut profits this year by £7 million. But the company said it was forging ahead with store expansion, which would create 1,000 jobs this year.

### Christmas sales

Percentage 1997	1996
Argos	7.9
Debenhams	6.6
Next	5.4
Boots the Chemist	5.0
Halfords	3.0
Sainsbury's	2.0
House of Fraser	1.1
Deans	4.0
Woolworths	2.5
ASDA	14.0
Coventry	1.5
Argos	1.5

\* Includes sale period

## Five pension mis-sellers face fines over failure to resolve fiasco

Teresa Hunter

**F**IVE large firms of independent financial advisers face the threat of fines and public reprimands after failing to meet deadlines set by the Government for resolving the pensions scandal.

Burns Anderson Independent, Countrywide Independent, DBS Financial, Financial Options and IFA Network, were the only firms to be singled out by the Personal Investment Authority yesterday for missing the December 31 deadline.

But the Association of British Insurers added five more names of leading insurance companies to the list of firms which failed to comply with the timetable of Helen Liddell, the Economic Secretary, for compensating victims.

Gan, Guardian Royal Exchange, Reliance Mutual, Sun Life of Canada and Royal Liver were not criticised by the PIA because the watchdog accepted they had taken considerable steps to meet the deadline.

However, Ms Liddell warned the financial advisers that they must now expect disciplinary action following their failures and she issued a broadside to the rest of the industry that pressure to clear up the scandal would not be relaxed. She said: "The first deadline has now passed and most of the large firms appear to have met it. Those who have not must face the consequences."

"The industry still has a huge task ahead of it as no company has yet resolved all its priority cases. There will be no let up from the Government or the regulators until this has been achieved."

The PIA has imposed 47 fines relating to the pensions review so far, totalling more than £2 million. DBS Financial Management has already been fined £425,000, while Friends Provident was fined £450,000 last September.

### Saturday Notebook

## Stopping slump must be Bank's new obsession



Alex Brummer

**T**HE determination of Labour leaders to establish their credentials as competent economic managers was an overriding concern in opposition and has been followed through in government. Gordon Brown has ushered in an even more cautious fiscal policy than was promised before the election and turned interest rate policy over to the hawks in the Bank of England.

This, the Government believes, has given it the stability it needs to embark on its contentious plans to update Beveridge. But there are risks in such an approach. These are not that the Tories or even Old Labour will eventually overwhelm the reform plans, but that the Blair government — like almost every other administration since the second world war — will be overcome by global events.

In much the same way as the fate of Harold Wilson was determined by the 1967 devaluation of the pound, Jim Callaghan by the 1976 loan from the International Monetary Fund and John Major by Britain's 1992 election from the Exchange Rate Mechanism, so Mr Brown needs to be ever-vigilant of uncontrollable economic developments. There are already three worrying spectres: the strong sterling exchange rate; the turmoil in Asia and events surrounding the start-up of the euro.

Mr Brown has done more than his long-term predecessors to inoculate the Government from such events. He has delivered an austere fiscal policy in which one measure alone, the abolition of tax credits for pensions schemes, will deliver £11.7 billion of income over 2 1/2 years, helping to reduce the public sector borrowing requirement to £4 billion by April 1999.

CONTRAST this, those close to Mr Brown say, to the political volcano that erupted when one of his predecessors, Norman Lamont, increased VAT on fuel — raising a mere £800 million. Similarly, Mr Brown's expensive programmes for putting youth and the long-term unemployed back to work have been fully funded in advance from a windfall tax which was imposed without attracting the opprobrium of business or legal challenges from the utilities.

This indicates a degree of political skill for which Mr Brown has not been fully credited. Moreover, if crisis does come, the UK will at least head into it with the public spending hatches buttoned down and with a relatively stable fiscal position.

Monetary policy and its direct link to the exchange

rate ought to be a much greater source of concern to Mr Brown. Technically this is now beyond the Government's domain — except in the case of dire emergency — because responsibility for it rests with the Bank of England's monetary policy committee. But this is not proving an entirely comfortable process.

A reading of the newly published minutes of the December MPC meeting does not fill one with confidence. This meeting of some of the smartest economic brains in the country, briefed to the gills, came to the stunning conclusion that it is "very difficult to assess whether levels of activity were currently at, above, or below the sustainable trends".

It was on the basis of such uncertainties, together with monetary data which the MPC found "was not completely clear", that it was decided, for the moment at least, to hold base rates at 7.25 per cent.

The science of keeping inflation below the 2.5 per cent range, despite all the analysis, is hit and miss. Indeed, the worry about the analysis being done is that the process has become over-intellectualised, and basic judgment — of the kind exercised by the Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan in the US — is being constrained.

It is difficult to believe, for instance, that a policymaker with the market experience of the Bank of England's governor, Eddie George, does not have a distinct view on the value of the analysis. It is in the same way as Mr Greenspan does. If he does, it is not forcefully represented in the monetary policy minutes.

Mr Brown and those around him need to take their eyes off their long-term goals for the moment and think about how the short-term could undermine their stability objectives. It is increasingly obvious that at this stage of the economic cycle the pound should be falling, not rising, yet in the last trading session it was close to three German marks and also firm against the dollar.

The likelihood is that as the UK moves towards monetary union, the "safe haven" effect could continue to distort the value of sterling, delivering a sharp blow to exporters already struggling from a 25 per cent loss of competitiveness since the pound began its surge. Add to this the loss of Asian markets and income for UK firms, and the odds of the slowdown expected this year turning into a full blown recession increase.

As has been the case in the US and to a certain extent Germany, the UK needs to put out a clear signal to the markets that interest rates have peaked and are now on hold, or likely to fall in the foreseeable future.

The Chancellor is allowed views on this, even if he does not control the policy instruments. But, more important, the Bank of England needs to adjust its perspective for a more dynamic and unsettled environment.

## Unions fear new pay restraint

Mark Atkinson  
and Seumas Milne

**P**UBLIC sector unions hit back last night as the signals increased from the Treasury that Gordon Brown is preparing to confront them over pay, heightening concern that they are being set as sacrificial lambs to demonstrate the case for wage restraint.

Pay review bodies covering doctors, dentists, nurses, senior civil servants and teachers are due to deliver their recommendations for 1998-1999 next week.

But as the Chancellor's spin doctors were last night rumoured to be preparing to soothe the blow of a likely squeeze of public sector pay, Rodney Bickerstaffe, leader of the giant union Unison, warned that public service workers would not tolerate further downward pressure on their living standards.

"They can't have it all ways," he said. "The rich are still getting richer and the poor poorer — and if the economy is in good shape, what better time is there for the Government to tackle some of the most deviously sharp cuts in the public sector?"

In an unusually sharp aside, he called for an open discussion about the choices facing the public sector — rather than more "briefings in bars or shots across the bows in the media".

Independent pay analysts say the review bodies are likely to suggest an average

rise of at least 3.5 per cent — equivalent to the headline rate of inflation when they were drawing up their reports last autumn.

While awards of that size may be acceptable to the Government, it is a concern that it may seek to cushion the impact on the public finances by implementing them in stages.

But even if it implements the increases in one go from April they are unlikely to be high enough to satisfy doctors and teachers, both seeking double-digit increases.

A spokesman for the British Medical Association said doctors had fallen down the pay league and were now some 50 per cent below where they were 18 years ago.

"We have asked for a catch-up award of at least 10 per cent a year over the next five years," said the spokesman.

An award at that level would hit morale and increase recruitment problems in general practice, he added.

"The crisis will just continue and the NHS will suffer."

Sarah Miller, of pay experts Income Data Services, said: "In his Pre-Budget Report the Chancellor talked about the importance of hitting the 2.5 per cent inflation target and hinted that that will be the Government's unofficial pay policy. But it seems fairly likely that the review bodies will recommend more than 2.5 per cent because they have always used the headline rate of inflation as their benchmark in the past."



Rich to scupper African debt deal, page 10  
Sir Colln stages dramatic entrance, page 11

# FinanceGuardian



Bank-busting bravado... Flanked by fearful co-founder Francis Leung, Peregrine Investments Holdings' chairman, Philip Tose (right), performed with characteristic élan at a press conference given 'to explain what had gone wrong'. He complained that First National Bank of Chicago, one of Peregrine's principal creditors, had backed away from 'prevalent' credit. He later retracted the remark.

PHOTOGRAPH BY VINCENT YU

## He stooped to conquer

ANDREW HIGGINS on the predator who set the style for Peregrine, the crashed Hong Kong investment bank

**W**HEN jittery financiers in Hong Kong began whispering late last year that the former British colony's premier home-grown investment bank was in trouble, Peregrine Investments Holdings took swift action to correct the crisis: it hired some private detectives to hunt down and silence the doom-mongers.

Named after the predatory falcon and with a style to match, Peregrine placed advertisements in the newspapers to deny the rumours. Its chairman, Philip Tose, dismissed them as the work of envious rivals. The only real problem, said Tose, a former Formula 3 racing car driver, was that its success had made Peregrine a "company that people love to hate".

Fortified by private investigators, aggressive lawyers and swashbuckling self-confidence, he pushed an American bank into apologising for "rumour-mongering". A few weeks later, Peregrine announced that a Swiss insurance company, Zurich Group, would pump in \$200 million (£124 million). The deal smacked of an emergency bail-out. Tose again insisted that all was well: "This is not a rescue."

Such robust defiance befits a man who has long expressed admiration for Asia's more intolerant and truth-phobic leaders. Indonesia's President Suharto, the Chinese and Vietnamese Communist parties and the junta in Burma; Tose has done business with them all.

But no more. Peregrine has crashed to earth. Its fate sealed by a last-minute decision by the Zurich Group to call off its rescue mission. Last Monday, after months of doggedly pursuing the alleged rumour-mongers, Peregrine's lawyer, Alan Mercer, issued a terse statement: "The company has taken preliminary legal steps in the prepa-

ration of an application for liquidation." In other words, Peregrine Investments had had gone bust.

The next day, Tose appeared in public to try to explain what had gone wrong. Flanked by fearful co-founder Francis Leung and the newly-appointed liquidator, he performed with characteristic bravado. He complained that First National Bank of Chicago, one of Peregrine's principal creditors, had backed away from "prevalent" new credit. He later retracted the remark in a statement acknowledging that First Chicago had made no such promise.

Asked about an enormous loan to Steady Safe, an Indonesian taxi company with ties to President Suharto's family, he snapped: "I believe you are really missing the point here." He described the Indonesian deal as "unfortunate" but said the blame for Peregrine's demise lay elsewhere.

Why Peregrine decided to gamble so much on Steady Safe is baffling. The Indonesian firm had bold and, at the height of the boom, even plausible plans to build an empire embracing ferries, highways and railways. Tose admitted to a weakness for grandiosity to Hong Kong's South China Morning Post. "I love dreaming. And I have a very expensive wife." His Hong Kong Chinese spouse is a glamorous socialite.

Still more seductive than Steady Safe's business fantasies were its connections. Among its investors is President Suharto's eldest daughter, Siti Hardijanti Rukmana. The one asset it really needed, however, was absent. It had no way to pay back Peregrine Investments. All its revenue comes from taxi fares paid in rupiah. When the Indonesia currency collapsed, any slim hope of Peregrine recovering its cash evaporated. The Zurich Group took fright and fled.

**A** SENIOR investment banker at a major US firm in Hong Kong remarked: "The concept of landing these guys \$200 million is positively mind-blowing. Doing business on the basis of *guanxi* is looking pretty discredited. It is time to rewrite the whole play-book."

By investing in Indonesia, though, Tose put his money

where his mouth is. A fierce critic of Hong Kong's last British governor, Chris Patten, Tose despises western liberals and regards Asian despotism as the true dynamo of the region's growth. "The results speak for themselves," he said, dismissing the Philippines after Marcos as a "basket-case" and hailing the economic triumphs of "strong government, some would call it dictatorship".

When the Harvard Business School met in Hong Kong last year, he opened a stir by suggesting that the US had suffered economically from the civil rights legislation that helped give a political voice to blacks.

Peregrine later denied that its chairman had intended any racial slur. Harvard disassociated itself from his comments, in which he had also attacked India's democracy. Like much of Asia, Tose is in a hurry, and has little time for debate. He loves speed. Indeed, until a car crash in 1988, he intended to make his name as a racing driver. The accident forced a career change but no deceleration in his ambitions. He became a stockbroker in his father's firm, Vickers da Costa, and moved to Hong Kong to set up an office there. Almost alone among British brokers, he realised that the power of the coey colonial trading houses was waning, and set out to cultivate an emerging Chinese business elite. Among

those he impressed was Li Ka-shing, now the territory's second-richest tycoon. After setting up Peregrine in 1989 with Francis Leung, Tose began wooing the Communist Party in Beijing. While other businessmen panicked or retreated in disgust after the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre, Peregrine jumped in with gusto. "We recognised that Tiananmen — while a tragedy — was a huge opportunity," he told the Hong Kong press.

"Naturally, Francis and I sat down and said to ourselves, 'What does this mean?' We were absolutely convinced this in no way would change China's role model for economic development."

His eagerness to please made many cringe. At a conference attended by foreign businessmen and Communist Party officials in Beijing in 1996, he began his speech by announcing that he had a one-word message for China's leaders: "Congratulations!" Party cadres beamed with delight.

A year earlier, he had come to the rescue of a senior Chinese bureaucrat flummoxed by a pointed question about the chaotic state of Chinese stock markets. Tose put his arm around the bewildered official and announced that Peregrine had complete faith in China's markets.

Staff had other things on their minds. "What spirit? I just had to fire a whole department," said one imminently redundant manager. "Fortunately, Hong Kong Telecom has not caught on yet, so everyone can still use the phones to ask about getting another job. I think Philip is still in denial." He is not alone.

### Quick Crossword No. 8647

**Across**  
5 Evidence (5)  
8 Threesome (4)  
9 US national game (6)  
10 Scant (5)  
11 Delay — arrest (5)  
12 Coming — before Christmas (5)  
15 Cattle pen (5)  
16 Collar bone (5)  
18 Expectant (4)  
19 Whirlpool (5)

**Down**  
1 Reserve — expedient (5)  
2 Fast — horses (5)  
3 Diverted (5)  
4 Slight — insult (4)  
6 Large reptile ... (5)

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Doorstapped... Investors at Peregrine's offices after Zurich Group took fright

تحت إشراف المحققين



# The Guardian the week

Saturday January 17 1998



## Vision for our future

Reinventing Labour was a huge challenge. Now Tony Blair has taken on an even bigger task. He talks to **Hugo Young** about why we must transform our idea of what the state can do for us

**T**HE Prime Minister cannot think why anyone should imagine he intends, through welfare reform, to damage a single needy person anywhere in the land. He is utterly, and genuinely, incredulous. "This idea that we're going to start harming people who are seriously disabled, or in wheelchairs or something, is ludicrous," he says. "I didn't come into politics to do that."

I feel the fume of his disbelief perhaps especially because the Guardian, he contends, has done its bit to give the opposite impression. The main reason why disabled people and other benefits recipients are worried, he thinks, is because of scare-story propaganda that has filled the gap, the void, in which he admits the debate is beginning, should be left unfilled by leak or rumour.

This is a methodological problem to which we will return. For the debate, it turns out, starts from a premise which reveals another zone of incredulity: that anyone can ask any questions about what is going on without putting at risk their reputation for good sense.

We had a swift, jousting conversation in Downing Street, just before Mr Blair boarded the train to start the welfare roadshow in the West Midlands. It showed him in all the unfrightened innocence, the wide-eyed rationality, the untroubled self-belief, and the refusal to succumb to the slightest tremor of caution to the sacred cows of old socialist argument,

which got him where he is today. What agonises the Labour Party — what would startle all his predecessors, living and dead — appears barely to touch him. He cannot take seriously the notion that the welfare state is in need of anything other than radical reform.

So he has begun the teaching process. "I want to take the case to the people, face the hard questions and soak up some of the criticism," he said. "People can hear from me direct, without distortion." He wanted to "get them to first base", prove that this was "not a piece of political machismo," "not a redundant, or foolish, or irrelevant battle, but actually important."

Its importance lies only partly in the exploding welfare budget. He can't deny that Britain hovers somewhere around 15th in the world league table for social security spending, though there are different ways of counting. Considered on its own, the level of spend, and even of future spend, can be exaggerated into a crisis. But that, in any case, is not his point. His point is that the costs

and benefits of all this spending, nearly £100 billion, are so grotesquely ill-matched as to be a scandal any new government must attend to.

Blair reels off a number of statements that define the basic problem as he sees it, the platform planks from which he starts.

"If you look at the way the system operates today, it doesn't very often get help to those that need it, and we carry on spending more and more on it, and we don't have the services that we require. It seems to me sensible to see if we can organise it better."

Or: "There must be something wrong with a system in which the spending has rocketed, so social security is far and away where spending is rising most, and rose most under the Tories, in circumstances where poverty has gone up, and the bottom 20 per cent of the population has seen their share of the benefits drop."

Or: "I think what is helpful is for people to focus on whether the system is serving either of its two tasks. Is it helping people who are genuinely in need? And is it helping people who can work, to work?"

He seems to believe quite passionately that the system, as it stands, is helping far fewer people than it should. Not too many, but too few. Yet surely, I suggest, it is axiomatic that, in order to help more of the people who need it, the benefits system will have to be withdrawn from some people.

This takes us into the first delicate minefield. "We have to wait and see," the Prime Minister said. But if it's to be more selective, it surely follows that some people will no longer get their present benefits? After all, everyone agrees that not everybody needs what they're getting.

"Yes," he replied, "but it depends how you make the change. We perceive that the structure of the system must certainly change. Exactly how that's done, that is the question."

So you aren't even prepared to say that some people are going to be losers?

"Well, some people may be winners. Let's wait and see the final set of proposals that we come up with."

That was not a glib, or even a wholly evasive, answer. At the bottom of it, I think, is the truth which in Blair's mind drives a lot of what he is doing. There's a real sense that everything which now unfolds, whatever its details, will be for the greatest good of the greatest number — indeed, the entire number — of the population. This carries it far above dreary questions of accountability and even above the little business of what benefit levels actually are. It has to do with social, even moral, improvements from which nobody will be exempt.

First of all, it will address the very purpose of life. I put it to the Prime Minister that he was driven by a certain view of society — about the work ethic, about more people being locked into the gross domestic product, about wanting people to be doing things because it's good for their souls and good for their lives not to be dependent.


"I subscribe to that, a 100 per cent," he replied vigorously. "To have a group of people set apart from society's mainstream, dependent on low levels of benefit, is not healthy for them or for the country."

Equally philanthropic was the relief it might be possible to give such people from pressures to commit fraud. Reformers, including Blair, have seized on evidence from the National Audit Office that billions are being lost by fraud. When I ventured £3 billion, he corrected me. It was more like £4 billion or £5 billion. An aspect of his view of the dependent society must therefore be that there are hundreds of thousands of people coming the system.

He put it a bit softer than that. But what mattered was the remedy at hand. The present system was positively designed to encourage abuse. To get people off the unemployment register, the Tories had pushed them into incapacity benefit, which as a result now page 14

**What agonises the Labour Party appears barely to touch him**

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Amartya Sen is the new top don at the wealthiest college in Britain. But what does he actually do?

# Master of all he surveys

INTERVIEW BY  
SABINE DURRANT



Last Wednesday, the new Master of Trinity College, Cambridge, turned up at his new job to find the gate locked. He was standing there in his gown and his academic regalia, but the porter, boot-faced under his bowler hat, wouldn't let him in. He said he had to see his documentation and took it away to be authenticated by the college fellows — all 154 of them. They were in the chapel at the time and when they'd read his contract, his Letters Patent, and seen it was signed by the Queen, they hurriedly lined up in the Great Court, opened the Great Gate and welcomed him in. Later there was singing in the chapel and in the evening, a Great Feast.

"It was a very quaint and antique ceremony," says Professor Amartya Sen, the distinguished economist and philosopher who has arrived to take up the post from Harvard. "It's a kind of thing people take seriously therefore it is serious. I can see the merit of it, though it isn't something I'm particularly used to. It certainly drives home the solemnity of the occasion... the beginning of a new job."

Two weeks before that inauguration, Professor Sen was standing nervously a stooped man in an overy roomy suit, an anxious-looking bird of academia with wiry grey hair and enquiring eyes behind thick-rimmed glasses, outside his home-to-be. The master's lodge is an imposing Tudor creper-clad structure occupying much of one side of Trinity College's Great Court, which is roughly the size of Wembley Stadium.

According to college rules, he could be photographed in or in front of the lodge or anywhere in the quad as long as the photographer didn't move from its porch. "As I'm new I don't want to get into any trouble," the professor said, peering round at the banks of watching windows, "with the fellows."

He then wandered worriedly through the lodge — a magnificent historical residence with a peculiarly English institutional air. "This," he said dubiously gesturing to two single beds in candlewick bedspreads, "is the royal guest room. That is the Master's Study, though I have heard that many meetings take place there so it is not perhaps as private..."

"Here is the bedroom of the previous master — but my wife and I have decided to move to smaller quarters at the back which are quieter. When there are feasts and entertaining which go on late, we can leave them to it."

There was building work in the college, the housekeeper was away and a thick layer of dirt covered the priceless furniture in all the huge rooms. "Dust," he kept saying in despair. "Dust."

To be the 36th master of the College of the Holy and Undivided Trinity in the University of Cambridge is, many would say, the best and most coveted academic job in the world, the sort of job characters in Inspector Morse kill for. It is in the gift of the Queen, which in practical terms means the prime minister, and the last time a Labour leader made the appointment was in 1965 when Harold Wilson chose Rab Butler, who was unpopular with the fellows but as a politician and as an outsider who hadn't attended Trinity as an undergraduate.

"There was a rumour this time that Douglas Hurd could be picked (but far too old) said one college insider and whispers, to scotch it, in favour of Professor James Mirrlees and Lord "Garry" Runciman, both fellows within the college. "Extremely suitable names," said Sen, truthfully again, his pale hands clasped in his lap.

Sen, who is 64, is an imaginative choice, both an insider and an outsider. He is what is commonly known as a "Trinity man", having completed both his first degree and his PhD at the college (the latter in a year) and been installed as a fellow between 1967 and 1983. But since then he has taken his scholarship — applying economic theory to practical and ethical problems — elsewhere, to India where he was born and where he still holds citizenship, to the LSE, to Oxford and, for the last 10 years, to Harvard.

He has lived his life in academia: he was born on a campus at Dhaka University in Bangladesh, both his father and grandfather were professors in India. And his qualifications (in the form of elections, awards and publications) are extensive. His office sends through his CV in two versions, the shorter, which is faxed, runs to four pages, the long, which is sent by courier, to 18.

It is tempting to say as one does of academics, that this man has lived his life removed from the world. But such assumptions are bumbled by the fact that Sen witnessed the Bengal famine of 1942-43 at the age of nine, had cancer of the mouth when he was a young man, and watched his second wife die of cancer herself, leaving him to bring up two young children. (He had two other children with his first wife, from whom he is divorced.) He is currently married to Emma Rothschild, a fellow at King's, Cambridge.

There is one irony though: the new master of one of the richest landowners in England — estimated to be worth up to £400 million (the famous story about being able to walk from Cambridge to Oxford controls, Scots would continue to work here just as Irish people do. Every year England would save billions of pounds now given to Scotland under the old Barnett formula. The armed forces would have to be divided, but could retain close ties. The Scots might choose to stay within the sterling area or join EMU.

Ministers have various replies, none satisfactory. "It doesn't matter," is one. "Because we've decided," is another. "To compensate for hundreds of years of oppression of Scots by the hated English," is implied in various forms. The truth: "Because there's no way round it, and we're going to force it through," is, of course, unacceptable.

But there is a perfectly good answer to the question, and that is Scottish independence. I don't know why this horrifies so many English politicians. An independent Scotland within Europe would keep its close links with England. There need be no border



Professor Sen... "It is not the case that I haven't enjoyed myself. So wine is not a subject in which I lack interest"

PHOTOGRAPH: EAMONN MCCABE

**'I have friends who have gone into the City and their lives seem much more restricted than mine.'**

on Trinity land is, apparently, apocryphal, a college legend for its cuisine and wine cellar — is also an expert on global famine. "I think there is a great deal of reason for feeling disquiet in one's life, but that in quiet may not come only when one is eating," he said sharply.

"If you are buying an expensive car, that car, given the economic resource, could then have been converted into food for people, so, while in terms of needing no imagination and with instant evocation, a feast may appear to be in tension with famine, every type of heavily expensive expenditure could be put in that category. So no, I don't really think the tension is very special in the context of a college meal."

He's quite enlightening when he wants to be. It's the combination of mild-mannered politeness and fierce intelligence. But is that what the job demands? We went in search of some coffee and in a school-sized kitchen found a kettle and pipe of polystyrene cups. A vague-looking Sen, crossing his pale ankles, "I think partly because of the tension between the master and the fellows at the time when Richard Bentley was master here at the beginning of the 18th century. He was regarded as somewhat autistic and the fellows tried to strip him of power as well as to get rid of him as master. They managed to do that but he

pointing, "but no milk." "Cafe Hag," replied Professor Sen with an attention to exactitude which may have got him where he is today. Jones was halfway out the door with his brace of champagne and a warning "don't give away any state secrets" when Sen remembered something.

"This problem with the housekeeper's dodgy boyfriend..." he began. "Perhaps we should talk about that later," said the VM with an anxious glance in my direction. Sen, uncomprehendingly, "But we saw him yesterday. He's still around. I mean he has a key to the master's lodge."

"Yes well, as I said, later..." During the interview, a squeak of boot shoe repeatedly presaged the arrival of Professor Jones. Either he was finding it hard to let go of the job, or he was keeping an eye on things. It made you wonder: how much power does the master actually have? What does he actually do?

"The master does not have direct many powers," said Sen, crossing his pale ankles. "I think partly because of the tension between the master and the fellows at the time when Richard Bentley was master here at the beginning of the 18th century. He was regarded as somewhat autistic and the fellows tried to strip him of power as well as to get rid of him as master. They managed to do that but he

actually stayed on in the lodge for almost a decade after he was evicted. They could not really get him out."

"Anyway, as a result of this, I think the master's powers lie only through the college council, as chair. And then they have to dine in a certain amount in the evenings and be at the feasts and preside over them giving grace. It's things like that."

As he talked, some of the liquid from his cup was slopping on to the floor. But he didn't seem to notice.

Will he find it stuffy after Harvard? "What do you mean, stuffy?" With the regulations and things. "What regulations?" Well, like not being able to photograph in the quad. "But I don't go around taking photographs of the college. That's a restriction on the Guardian rather than me. There are more regulations of a certain type certainly, but these are regulations of which I am familiar. They are ingrained in me."

"I have friends who have gone into the City and their lives seem much more restricted than mine is. At least I don't have to put on a suit every time I go anywhere."

He thinks, compared to Harvard students, Cambridge undergraduates "get away with murder". "Here you are left rather severely alone. As a student I enjoyed that, I must

say." Did he have him as a student? It's hard to imagine him messing about, getting drunk. "Drunk? I think I probably was out because I have fairly high tolerance levels but it is not the case that I haven't relaxed and enjoyed myself. So wine is not a subject in which I lack interest."

As master, access to supplies may be rather easier. "I recollect the college did have a good cellar," he said. Otherwise, he is looking forward to taking a break from teaching (he has taught almost continuously since he was 23), seeing more of his wife (they are both weary of commuting despite the air miles) and leading a rather more leisurely life (Harvard was "backbreaking"). There is a book to write about teaching, for example, which has been postponed and postponed and postponed.

When I rang the lodge this week to check some details, the leisurely life had yet to kick in. He was "frantic" with meetings he said. But most taxing of all was the "constant drilling. I am told this might finish by Easter." And the dust! Still falling apparently.

"We sat down to lunch yesterday before the ceremony, the knocking and so on, and the table was spotless. Today, it's covered. You could sign your name in it." Maybe it will be swept away soon.

SIMON HOGGART'S WEEK



**Away over the border with the West Lothian question**

THE Government wishes to get rid of the constitutional absurdity by which hereditary peers can vote. At the same time it wants to introduce the equal absurdity of Scottish MPs at Westminster being able to vote on English matters, while English MPs will have no say at all in Scottish affairs — a state of affairs known as the West Lothian Question.

Ministers have various replies, none satisfactory. "It doesn't matter," is one. "Because we've decided," is another. "To compensate for hundreds of years of oppression of Scots by the hated English," is implied in various forms. The truth: "Because there's no way round it, and we're going to force it through," is, of course, unacceptable.

But there is a perfectly good answer to the question, and that is Scottish independence. I don't know why this horrifies so many English politicians. An independent Scotland within Europe would keep its close links with England. There need be no border

controls. Scots would continue to work here just as Irish people do. Every year England would save billions of pounds now given to Scotland under the old Barnett formula. The armed forces would have to be divided, but could retain close ties. The Scots might choose to stay within the sterling area or join EMU.

Polls in England show that the southern population broadly favours the idea. Both countries are building other links (there are now far more direct trains from London to Paris than to Glasgow). It's a good, straightforward, workable idea and we should join the SNP in embracing it.

At Christmas I mentioned the newly fashionable circular letters in which you describe everything that went wrong in the past year. A friend has just sent me a classic of the genre, from a middle-class family with a double-barrelled name. It's been a terrible year for them... The wife has been made redundant, and the only job she can find involves home visits and encour-

tering "a cocktail" which squawks obscenities in the corner". The daughter caught a debilitating virus just before her 11-plus. Then Grandma was slashed by a hit-and-run pushchair "so badly that Castilly thought she had been run over by a car". The other daughter is trapped in a class with disruptive boys. After this tale of almost unmitigated misery it is an immense relief to reach the last paragraph: "The three cats are fine."

A HANDSOME apology in the glossy give-away magazine which is dished out in the Chiswick area of West London. An earlier edition had described the surprising visit to suburban Kew by the Japanese royal family. "We apologise for any confusion which the piece may have caused, as it was unfortunately incorrect. It should have read that Sir Gillian and Lady France were themselves received by the Emperor and Empress of Japan during a visit to Tokyo, and not the other way round."

WHY on earth does anyone take Steven Berkoff seriously? He is in trouble with Equity, the actors' union, for taking voice-over work while the union is in dispute with the advertising industry about fees. They are "appalled" by what he has done; he calls this response "an iniquitous act" which is "beyond redemption".

**Where his own work is concerned, Mr Berkoff is able to suspend disbelief every time**

Actually the Church teaches that nobody is beyond redemption, however great their sins. This is the centre of the argument about Myra Hindley and what she did may be thought worse than being rude about a scab — even a famous scab like Mr Berkoff. Still, he does seem to believe that anything short of full-time adoration of him and his works is outrageous.

Some years ago he produced Oscar Wilde's play *Salome*. This was hugely praised, mainly by Mr Berkoff. Kind friends had bought us tickets, so we went along to see the hapless cast walking round in slow motion, as if wading through treacle, and speaking v-e-e-r-y slowly like Daleks on pot. It turned out that this was to set up Mr Berkoff's own appearance as Herod, whom he played as a comic musical hall turn, somewhere between Max Wall and Russ Abbott. It was painful. Later Mr Berkoff hailed the astonishing success of his production in the *Guardian*, recording that it had been another week of full houses, even though — oddly enough — the night we went it was at least a third empty. But then where his own work is concerned, Mr Berkoff is able to suspend disbelief every time.

MORE letters about Perfect Day, including a valuable Leavisite exegesis from Ben Cooper of Leamington Spa. He points out that the whole Loo Reed album Trans-

former (where Perfect Day originally appeared) borrows heavily from passages and ideas in Eliot's *The Waste Land*. This does make sense of the more puzzling lines. Why "sangria" in the park rather than beer or gin? Because it's (almost) Spanish for blood, and so relates to fertility cults, as does the otherwise irrelevant line "you're going to reap just what you sow" — perhaps in this case meant literally. "You just keep me hanging on" refers not to the Supremes' great 1966 hit but to the Hanged Man in the tarot pack — another favourite of Eliot's.

Of course there could be a wholly Christian interpretation as well. Sangria would be communion wine, and the line: "I thought I was someone else/ Someone good" may refer to the redemption of sins brought about by Christ hanging on the cross. Improbable? No, especially since Reed's great drinking companion was the poet Delmore Schwartz who, Mr Cooper tells me, was obsessed by *The Waste Land* and talked about it endlessly.



# Blessed Margaret

HEAD TO HEAD: IS MAGGIE THATCHER  
A HEROINE OF THE NEW FEMINISM?



Yes

Natasha Walter  
Writer



No

Hilary Cottam  
Academic

Dear Natasha Walter,

Margaret Thatcher, you tell us, is "the great unsung heroine of British feminism". Margaret Thatcher, who presided over the very increases in women's poverty and inequality which your new book, *The New Feminism*, documents. Or who so infamously claimed there to be no such thing as society?

We have always had these Boadiceas who have been combative, unafraid of personal success — but where has this left us? Margaret Thatcher's politics were those of the particular "me", white, middle class and, yes, a woman. This too is the "me" feminism of the Spice Girls — for whom Thatcher is of course a heroine. Her legacy is an individualised form of politics which, while it might be unashamed in its celebration of "girl power", has forgotten that equality means equality for everyone, not just those at the centre.

In embracing Margaret Thatcher you, like her, have merely substituted the individual for the personal from the political, but we are not left with just an empty form of celebrity feminism facing a political vacuum?

As you call for a new pragmatic feminism, the Government proposes cutting benefits to single mothers. Is it any coincidence that this group can't organise to protest? Where are the spaces for solidarity in this "new" feminism of which Thatcher is the heroine? Let us re-evaluate the personal and the political and let us have heroines — but not Margaret Thatcher.

Yours sincerely,  
Hilary Cottam  
Open University

Dear Hilary,

When I decided to write *The New Feminism* I began by interviewing dozens of women. One question I liked to ask was who their heroines were. Lots of names came up, but the one I kept hearing was Margaret Thatcher. One 13-year-old girl said to me: "Respect her for getting there." Another woman who is now the second black woman MP in Britain, told me: "I don't care if Margaret Thatcher

was the devil, it meant so much to me that I was growing up when two women — she and the Queen — were running the country." I'm not going to make extreme claims for Margaret Thatcher. I'm not going to say that she's a feminist, or that I agree with any of her politics or policies. But I will say that she had a real, striking effect on many women who were growing up while she was prime minister. Above all, she normalised female power. She made us realise that women can do the things that men once thought were all their own. These things include being powerful and confident. They may also, less comfortably, include being cruel, megalomaniac, and warmongering.

Feminists often wrote as if they believed that all women were very much the same, and very different from men — nice, more peace-loving. But the cause of women's equality will get nowhere in this generation unless feminists say loudly that women are all very different. And because we're all very different, we'll have all sorts of heroines — from Geri Spice to Princess Diana, from Mo Mowlam to Margaret Thatcher.

Yours sincerely,  
Natasha Walter

Dear Natasha,

Yes, we are all very different but difference, far from being ignored by feminists, has in recent decades been central to debates. Some would argue that feminists have shouted so loudly about how different women are that the entire feminist project has been side-tracked — there is no such thing as "woman" it was claimed in the eighties, to howls of horror and roars of glee. I can't recall the real question how might we respect and nurture these differences while seeking ways to build the consensus necessary for any practical, political intervention? This is what is precluded by the individualism you prescribe and this is why your choice of heroine matters.

In your book you argue that I must separate the personal from the political so that we are free to pursue individual power and equality. Above all, new feminism is materialist, you claim, and our material ambitions have been hampered by a "politically cor-



PHOTOGRAPH BY PETER RICHARDSON

rect" obsession with the personal. Personal politics, I agree, sterile. But issues we face as women, the very way we approach our differences, runs through lives in public and in private. To abandon rather than rethink these links is to cut ourselves off from our own inspiring history. I fear your "new" feminism is, like its heroine, deeply conservative and, cut off from its roots, has lost the tools to achieve the pragmatic project you advocate.

Yours,  
Hilary

Dear Hilary,

You tell me that I am prescribing individualism, that I am asking women to pursue individual power, and that I am abandoning the links between women. You say that the new feminism that I describe in my book is not pragmatic. What are you basing these complaints upon?

My book lays out very clearly that I believe that women have a common disadvantage — the absence of political, economic and social equality, and a common cause — the pursuit of equality. I argue that this common cause links women throughout Britain. The majority of women now want to see more equality at home and at work.

Given this new, mainstream appeal of feminism, it is time we

turned the debate away from the stuff of women's personal lives. I don't want to see feminism bogged down in arguments about how women should dress and talk and make love.

That means that feminism now, as I see it, is less individualistic and more pragmatic than ever before. It is less personal and more political. It is looking for straightforward, achievable objectives: new measures to enable parents to balance work and home, a minimum wage, support for women in poverty. And it has in its sights something that is not looked, not individualistic, and not conservative. It has in its sights the final revolution: the achievement of thoroughgoing and lasting equality between the sexes in Britain.

Yours,  
Natasha

Dear Natasha,

In your book, you have rejected identity politics as a form of feminism that arises directly out of your own experience, but I wonder whether this personal account is any different. You are at ease because you write from the centre, white, young, employed — you, like me, are in effect without "identity". This is not about dictating personal lives, it is about recognising that the ability to act politically cannot be separated from social status. Cultural ideas

about femininity are imbricated in the economic.

So Natasha, we must agree to differ and I will celebrate that you have opened this space because there is so much more to be done.

Yours,  
Hilary

Dear Hilary,

Out of the 280 pages of my book about three pages are taken up by references to myself or my own background or experiences. But you ignore the fact that the other women whose voices you hear in my book come from all sorts of backgrounds. Some of them are living on benefit and speak about their experiences of bringing up children in poverty. Some of them speak about their experiences of sexual violence and some of them work in community groups and speak about trying to make life better for themselves and other women. There is an energetic feminism in Britain today among women of all social groups. And it is that reality, not my own experiences, that makes me believe that equality between men and women may now be closer than ever before.

Yours,  
Natasha

The *New Feminism*, by Natasha Walter, is published next week by Little Brown. Hilary Cottam is writing a book on cities.

JEREMY HARDY



A divine right to annoy the rest of us

We could all be forgiven for forgetting that the Millennium is supposed to celebrate Jesus's birthday. It has snuck up on us and we're not ready. In two years' time, Blue Peter presenters will be digging up their time capsule to see what life was like in the 1990s.

Readers may remember that craze for burying rust-proof pods containing a Matchbox car, a bus ticket, a Smarties tube and a copy of Radio Times. Because of the Malthusianism of the time, it was expected that, by now, there would be so many overpopulation statistics per head, that if everyone breathed out at the same time it would blow the sun out and there'd be a new ice age forcing us to live mostly on the moon. No one ever thought that three decades later, we'd still be using jump leads, eating cornflakes straight from the packet and saying: "It's not what you know, it's who you know."

Admittedly technology has moved on apace. We now have telephones that won't start because of a flat battery. But, in terms of culture, everything is so retrospective that nothing which was buried in 1990 would look outlandish today. About the only things to have completely disappeared by the year 2000 will be free education and the welfare state, and the Government is only just burying them now.

Anyway, some sort of a do will be cobbled together in time for this big anniversary, and who would have thought that, at the end of the 20th century, we would have a government crimson with embarrassment because it nearly forgot to invite the Church of England?

The worst thing about the C of E — apart from the fact that lemon curd is vile and an unworthy reffle prize — is the way that it cherishes its role as the established Church. Despite internal opposition from radical clergy the hierarchy clings to this competitive advantage. Anglicans espouse ecumenism, and yet they seem to want to be in charge of it.

The protestation, "This is still a Christian country", is true only to the extent that the Anglican church still wields undue influence and undesired privileges. But "Christian" like other terms denoting faith, is used more often as an ethnic description. Parents who say that they want their children to receive a Christian education usually mean that they are worried by the number of children at a school who aren't white. They fear that their kids will be learning funny Indian customs like drinking tea and eating chutney.

A person's religious background is part of their cultural identity, whether they believe in a god or

not. So it is not necessarily wrong for an atheist to describe them as, for example, a Catholic. Indeed, I have never met a Catholic — priests included — who believed a word of it. Despite the myth, it is not the Anglicans who will admit it's all bollocks after a few pints.

Anyway it would be impossible to make sense of British history or culture without understanding our Christian history. But then, it is impossible to make sense of the Christian calendar without a working knowledge of paganism. And although the birth of Christ is used as an arbitrary way of measuring time, no-one seriously believes that Jesus was born on a bank holiday one December, to coincide with the end of the Roman tax year and the exhaustion of possible dates with "BC" in front of them. Time didn't suddenly begin in a stable with a tinfall star on top of it. Myrra didn't suddenly come into being that day although nobody's heard of since has considered it an appropriate gift for a new-born baby.

What's troubling about the emphasis on Christianity in the Dome is that it will not merely help to place us historically and culturally. It will be a huge advert for a religion. In the same way that the national curriculum demands a multi-faith approach, a benign nod will go in the direction of the lesser creeds, but we'll know which religion is supposed to be best.

If the curriculum is to be slurred down, the influence of the Church should be the first thing to go. At the moment, we have a situation where the message to children of a minority faith is: "We like your different way of using candles, and you do some lovely things with material, but your grandparents

didn't come from here, so you must understand that you are wrong." Small wonder then that we are moving towards a segregated society where children go to schools according to their parents' religion. If one religion is allowed to dominate, others will seek isolation in order to survive. And since there are already Catholic schools and Jewish schools, it is argued that we should have Islamic schools in the interests of equality.

Obviously there is a good reason for introducing the very young to religion: grown-ups are wiser, more sceptical and less easily intimidated. And theologically, we can only understand the difference between right and wrong within the framework of a monotheistic belief system, although nowhere in the scripture does the Lord say: "Pull not thy sister's hair because she doesn't like it" or "How would you like it if Caesar didn't render unto you the things which are yours?"

Surely, one of the best ways to embrace multi-culturalism is to decide that it's time to get all religions off people's backs. People can believe what they like, but why should the fact that their ideas are mystical give them more right to impose them on others? The teaching of religion as truth has no place in any school, and if there is to be a dominant religion advertised among the trade stands in the Dome, it's only fair that it should be Shinto, given pride of place alongside Toyota.

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The Guardian

## SMALLWEED

THE RECENT events in the ghastly turmoil we know as Rugby Union reinforce Smallweed's oft-stated view that the time is ripe for this sport to be merged with boxing. As various veterans sporting cauliflower ears have observed this week, it's a man's game, rugby, in which those who engage in the front row of the scrum expect the odd bit of how's-your-father. That biting should now be involved in rugby union merely confirms its kinship with boxing, where Mike Tyson for one is famous for using his teeth.

A lawyer writes: I am sure you wish to point out that nothing said here is designed to imply that the Bath XV were guilty. As one of their front row said, there's no reliable evidence that the damage to Penn's ear was done by any Bathman. This could be a case where, as sometimes seems to have happened in Bosnia, protagonists inflicted damage upon themselves in the hope of laying the blame on their opponents.

Smallweed defiantly mumbles: You take the words right out of my mouth.

WHY DO SO many television programmes nowadays embed the names of presenters in their titles? On Thursday, for instance, Channel 4 offered Mrs Cohen's Money,

presented by, er, Mrs Cohen, while BBC 2's peak viewing included: 6pm, Ray Mears' World Of Survival; 8.30, Jeremy Clarkson's Extreme Machines; and 9.30 Louis Theroux's Weird Weekends. What next? Trevor McDonald's News At Ten? Jeremy Paxman's Naughty Newsnight? Suzanne Charlton's Wild 'n' Wacky Weather? This nonsense must stop; the alliterations especially.

SEE that in her memoirs the controversialist Julie Burchill claims that she and her ex-husband Charlotte Raven had the best four legs in London. This claim seems unlikely. It's one of the few reliable rules about life that no set of legs can be adequately judged by the person wearing them. As Burns so nearly wrote in this context: "O wad some Power the giftie gie us! To see their legs as others see 'em!" It was true once more, a hundred years later.

A centipede writes: How true. On any objective analysis, the best 100 legs in London are those on which I am standing at this moment in order to reach my word processor.

THOUGH further reports on the Bensons have come in this week, the Smallweed spotlight is today on Condorcet, author of the famous Condorcet criterion, as

explained in this column a fortnight ago. The Marquis of Condorcet, I suggested, was a mathematician-cum-politician who fell out with extremist elements after the French Revolution. Since then I have been offered the following version of events, based on the writings of Simon Schama. In 1794, Condorcet, a moderate Girondist, attempted to flee from the Terror by walking as far as he could before nightfall. Reaching Clamart, south-west of Paris, tired and hungry, he rested at an inn, where he ordered an omelette. "And how many eggs in your omelette, citizen?" the innkeeper asked. "Twelve," Condorcet replied. This was unwise. It exposed a familiarity with a distinctly unproletarian lifestyle. The innkeeper graced to the local police and Condorcet was locked up on suspicion of being an aristocrat. He died in his cell — possibly of starvation — before he could be taken back to Paris. This whole tragedy, Smallweed sadly reflects, might well have been avoided if only Condorcet's spokesman been there to explain that the marquis was simply proving he was his own man.

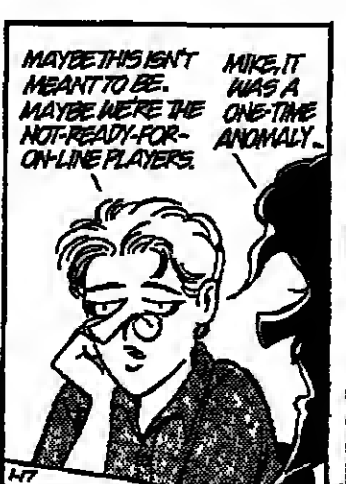
JUST ONE more point, though, about the notorious Bensons. EW, the Archbishop, is frequently credited

with inventing the service of nine lessons and carols as broadcast every Christmas Eve from Cambridge. The service was launched in Truro when he commanded that diocese. But does he deserve the credit? Possibly not. A letter this week in the Daily Mail's rip-off of the Guardian's Notes And Queries (it's called Answers To Correspondents) alleges that Benson blatantly lifted the notion from the parish church of St George in the same Cornish city. "It just proves he's his own man," I expect some reverend spokesman said later.

JOE ROSS writes from Lewes, Sussex: "It was kind of you to allow an apprentice to contribute to your column of January 10. You yourself, of course, would not have referred to Tamsin Little without pointing out that her name is not variant of Tamsin (itself a diminutive of Thomasina) and thus an example of metathesis — the transposition of two sounds and/or letters in a word."

Touché as the Marquis of Vanvenergues once observed in a totally different context. Tamsins are rare; but Tamsin is rare. I shall never again sit through another of Tamsin's divine performances without whispering to my neighbour: this artist is methathetical.

## Doonesbury



## THE WORST OF MY WEEK...

...SAYS COLUMNIST LAUREN BOOTH: "Was when certain tabloids jumped to the wrong conclusion about who I was/was not seeing romantically. I kiss lots of men! Every time I kiss a male friend they appear in the tabloids, none of my male friends will so near me. So the best moment would have to be the occasions that my alleged new boyfriend was a laddish gold smuggler and, thankfully, not an MP."

سكنا من الالصل



Is this the road to hell? Members of a German cult which is determined to commit mass suicide on Mount Teide have been thwarted twice. Will it be third time unlucky?



# This way Armageddon

Special investigation by Rory Carroll  
with Adela Gooch in Madrid, Denis Staunton  
in Berlin and Jonathan Watts in Tokyo

**T**onight, as the sun slides into the Atlantic and casts Tenerife into darkness, the men from the Policía Local will flick on their headlights and trundle towards Mount Teide. The chatter from bars and pounding disco beats will fade into silence as their white Ford and Seat patrol cars begin ascending the 12,980ft dormant volcano.

Trees quickly thin out, leaving only a barren landscape on either side of the narrow dirt track. The policemen will keep peering into the blackening gloom, looking for signs of life, fearing they will find only death.

It is here that a doomsday cult has chosen to commit mass suicide. Come twilight, 13 men, 13 women and five children, members of a German cult, could emerge from the shadows around the summit and drink from drums of poison. If all goes according to plan, they will make a clearing among the rocks, lie down, close their eyes and slip away leaving behind 31 corpses, shattered families and a catastrophe for the authorities.

That is the grim outcome the Spanish police must now try to avoid. The challenge is not a theoretical one: on January 7, after months of monitoring, they did just that. Tipped off by Interpol, they raided an organic farm in Arafa, near Santa Cruz, the island's capital and arrested 32 cult members, some huddled in tents, just hours, it is thought, before a planned mass suicide. A "last supper" with suspected poison was removed.

Then last Monday there was a second alert when reports came through that some of the cult members had phoned relatives back in Germany to say a final goodbye. This time the Spanish police took no chances and rounded up the group, now reduced to 16 adults and three children, and took them into protective custody overnight. But in Spain committing suicide is not an offence, and on Tuesday morning the group, all German except for one Spaniard, were released for a

second time. They promptly piled into taxis and returned to Arafa, where the eyes of the world now watch, waiting for them to emulate the departed souls of Heaven's Gate, Solar Temple, Waco and Jonestown.

The police are desperate. The cult is law-abiding and entitled to go about its business without harassment. "We can monitor the situation but we can't control people's will," an officer involved in the case said. "What do you do? Follow each person into bed, into the bathroom? That's impossible. But then, if they do succeed, who gets the blame..."

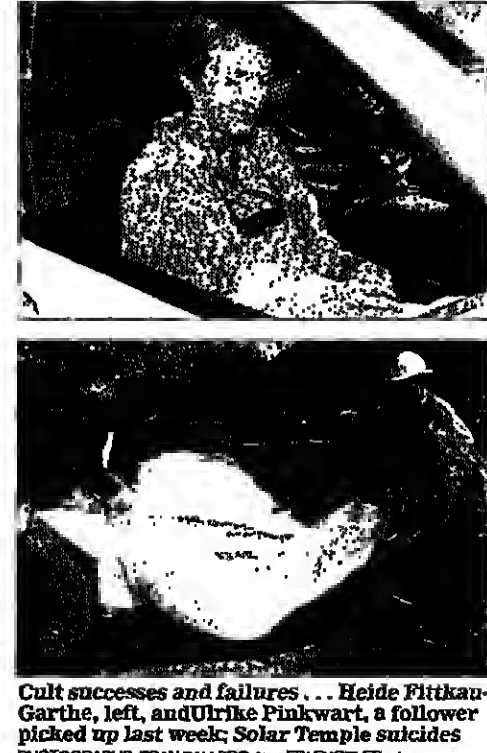
A patrol car stands guard outside the farmhouse but 24-hour surveillance on individual members is impossible. And if they were spotted about to drink poison, what would the police shout? "Stop or I shoot"? Not much of a threat, when members believe the apocalypse is nigh and that an alien spaceship will land on the Teide volcano and take their souls to rebirth in the solar system of the star Sirius.

So it has become a race against the clock. The end of the world, the cult believed, was due at 8pm sharp on January 8. It clearly didn't happen then. But how much longer will it be before the group tries, successfully, to commit collective suicide?

Whether it comes to this hinges on one issue: do the 31 members really believe, without an ounce of doubt, that a spaceship will pick up their bodies? That the world is about to end? That God has taken human form in the pretty body of a 57-year-old German psychologist, Heide Fitkau-Garthe, their inspiration and leader?

Yes, seems to be the answer. And they say it calmly, reasonably, without bulging eyes or foam at the mouth. Most are, after all, decent, university-educated, middle-aged, middle-class Germans. Space cadets don't come more respectable.

Their road to Mount Teide began in crowded halls around Germany where Fitkau-Garthe, a respected lecturer at Hamburg University and a TV pundit, gave



Cult successes and failures... Heide Fitkau-Garthe, left, and Ulrike Pinkwart, a follower picked up last week; Solar Temple suicides. PHOTOGRAPHS: FRANK PALLER, top; EDU ENGELER, above

seminars to captivated businessmen on management training, meditation and dealing with personal trauma. Unknown to most of her audiences, she drifted into the Indian Brahmin Kumaris sect before leaving the university in 1983. Divorced, with a 21-year-old son, she developed a divine cult around her own person and called herself Aida, or the source.

She recruited a hard core of 25 disciples from her seminars and divided her time between Hamburg and Tenerife, where she owns the farmhouse at which the cult members were discovered last week. She told them the unresolved past of wandering souls was the source of all aggression. Cassettes recorded her ideas in a soothing voice against a background of synthesiser music.

Neighbours in Tenerife described Dr Fitkau-Garthe as a pleasant woman who spent regular periods on the farm. She herself claimed her visitors were patients who had come to the Canaries for therapeutic rest.

Enrique Torres, her lawyer, says

members of the group were on holiday and denied any intention to commit suicide. In this account, Fitkau-Garthe is a humanitarian providing safe haven for abused women and people with psychological problems. But this fails to explain why, according to relatives of disciples, some members had begun by last year to call her God. Or why she said the world would end on January 8 and that she would protect them.

Inspired by the Order of the Solar Temple, whose followers carried out mass suicides in Canada, France and Switzerland, they didn't intend to be among the doomed losers left on Earth. Sirius beckoned. It was simply a question of hitching a ride with aliens via ritual suicide. Beam me up potty, as the Sun said.

And they're not even mad, or even necessarily gullible. According to some mental health professionals who study cults, they are just like us: worried at the direction society is taking, not sure

what they want out of life and vaguely dissatisfied with job and family.

Barry Hart, a clinical psychologist, says the typical cult member was often bright and had potential earning power — which is why they were recruited. "It's the sons and daughters of people who read the Guardian, not the Sun. They turn their backs on orthodox religion but have needs for spiritual growth, a genuine search for meaning in life. Crazy people don't usually get into cults."

Dr Hart estimates that Britain contains 500 cults with up to 500,000 members. The approaching millennium is likely to swell that number.

Neither coincidence nor cheaper rents result in so many cults locating in remote areas. Cut off from friends, family and the outside world, members become rationed to one source of information, the leader. Often with no TV, no radio, no newspapers, there is nothing to question the increasingly doomsday world-view they are fed.

Chris Soames did not quite fit the bill when he drifted into the London Church of Christ in 1990, but the Spanish police combing Mount Teide are unlikely to take comfort from his story. "People think you become a slave with no mind of your own, that simply isn't the case. You have to be more active and believe what you're doing is right."

Despite retaining links with his family and resenting the oppressive hierarchy, Chris, who left the cult three years ago, was at one stage willing to die for it. "We planned to smuggle [ourselves] into Iran to seek converts. If we were caught we would've been killed, but I didn't care because I felt absolutely sure we were right."

rated the moment they were arrested. A Roman battering ram persuaded 1,000 Jews at Masada to commit suicide in AD73. Fears that visiting US Congressmen heralded the break up of Jonestown prompted the Reverend Jim Jones and 914 followers to turn the Guyana jungle into their graveyard in November 1978. A law enforcement siege signalled a conflagration for David Koresh and his Branch Davidians at Waco, Texas, in April 1993.

Such precedents will hardly warm the hearts of the Santa Cruz police officers. The first glimpse of their blue shirts bursting in the door could have been confirmation, to Fitkau-Garthe's disciples that exit from the cosmic stage was finally set.

The one ace held by police is Fitkau-Garthe herself. She remains in custody charged with incitement to suicide, which is an offence under Spanish law. Unless she really is God she is not able to communicate with her cult. Conditioned to obedience and dependency, what do they do now? Stick with plan A and head for Mount Teide? Sit tight and wait? Get a good lawyer? Some reports say half of the sect have returned to Germany. But even if true the remnants, judging by precedent, remain a serious liability to Tenerife's fun-loving reputation.

Jehovah's Witnesses have stayed loyal through several false Armageddons. More worrying still, many followers of the Aum Supreme Truth cult have rallied to their imprisoned leader, Shoko Asahara, since the 1995 Sarin gas attack on a Tokyo subway, and more than a third of those members put in prison have returned to the cult, fearful that they would go to hell if they renounced it. Heaven's Gate, whose members committed suicide en route to a spaceship trailing the Hale-Bopp comet, is back in business recruiting on the Internet.

So tonight, policemen will roam their vigil on top of Mount Teide. Standing amid the rocks and boulders, the archipelago played out below will melt into the darkness from 7pm as lights from bars and discos begin to glimmer. Even in winter Sirius, a solar system away, can be seen clearly. Tenerife's tourist board says it looks very pretty.



imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, and in the music industry, it's the most lucrative too. Songs such as Stairway To Heaven and Smoke Gets In Your Eyes have been successfully covered to death, in wildly contrasting versions. So why has the Sun been getting worked up about Natalie Imbruglia's hit, Torn? Because, according to Andy Coulson, editor of the paper's Bizarre section, Imbruglia's version of the song bears a miraculously close resemblance to Norwegian singer Trine Rein's recording, which topped the Norwegian charts in 1995.

"The point of our story is that Natalie Imbruglia's record is exactly the same as a record that was released two years before," Coulson explains. "We're not suggesting, nor have we ever suggested, that she wrote the song, or that she's claimed to have written the song. What we're saying is that a record that was a massive hit at the end of last year was effectively released

two years before by somebody else, in an identical form."

## You're singing my song. No, you're singing my song...

When is a cover not a cover? Adam Sweeting on why pop homage is landing stars in trouble

The Sun also suggested that Imbruglia made no effort to dispel a widely shared illusion that the song, if not written by her, was written specifically for her. Imbruglia's record company, RCA, is not amused. "RCA didn't respond to this story because it's not an issue," said a press officer. "Natalie has never claimed to have written the song, although she has written 10 of the songs on her album Left Of The Middle."

Coulson's cause has been boosted by Chris Evans, who

mixed in and out of the two versions of Torn on his radio show on Thursday to demonstrate that they are indeed almost interchangeable. Is Imbruglia's hit not so much a cover version, more of a clone?

As Coulson admits, Imbruglia hasn't broken any laws, and no doubt the Sun has indulged in some journalistic licence because "Singer records cover version" wouldn't make much of a headline. But the story hints at the broader issue of what's original and what's not in the record biz. If plagiarism is familiar in the publishing industry, how much more

pervasive might it be in music, where technology permits all kinds of aural sleight of hand?

There have been lots of high-profile plagiarism cases. George Harrison was judged to have plundered The Chiffons' He's So Fine for his 1971 hit My Sweet Lord, and bluesman Willie Dixon extracted compensation from Led Zeppelin for turning his song You Need Love into Whole Lotta Love, while Michael Jackson's album Dangerous was banned in Italy after a court decided that Jackson had "borrowed" a song by crooner Al Bano for his song, Will You Be There.



by Stevie Wonder. Sting or Spandau Ballet, where is credit really due?

At least the whole process has made everybody acknowledge that copyrights can't be infringed without incurring heavy fines. The wise artist will make an accommodation with the plunderer before releasing their disc, as Oasis did when lifting a chunk of Gary Glitter's Hello. Hello I'm Back Again on their song Hello (even if they didn't feel it necessary to acknowledge a debt to John Lennon's Imagine or to Mott The Hoople's All The Young Dudes, which arguably are echoed in Don't Look Back in Anger).

The Rolling Stones preempted litigation from k.d. lang by confessing that their recent single Anybody Seen My Baby bore an uncanny resemblance to Ian's Constant Craving. Have Mick and Keith noticed how much The Verve's Bittersweet Symphony pays homage to The Last Time? Meanwhile, what next for the Imbruglia imbroglio? More dosh all round, probably EMI will release Trine Rein's version of Torn in this country next month. Imbruglia herself will doubtless go from strength to strength. "I don't know why RCA have got their knickers in a twist about this," says Coulson. "The irony is that sales of Natalie's record will probably now go up."



## arts

Who inspired Eve Arnold to pick up a box Brownie? Cleo Laine to air her tonsils? **Caroline Egan** asks performers and artists...

## Who was your role model?

**MARTIN McDONAGH**, playwright,

on **KURT COBAIN**  
Most of my influences are from pop culture because of its speed, honesty, youth. Kurt Cobain's basic appeal is cathartic. He was a skilled songwriter, and his music's great to dance to when you're drunk. More than that, I admired his honesty, and through his rage he produced great tunes. I would listen to his singer and admire the creative quality of his destruction. I began to see connections with my own life.

I dislike 95 per cent of theatre I see or read about, so I have learned to destroy those negative feelings and include the angry quality in my own work. Cobain taught me you can only be true to yourself and only believe your own opinion, ignoring any negative and positive forces coming from the outside.

The saddest thing about Cobain is that he would have gone on to create so much more had he lived. He created more in his short life than most people who have been around for 40 or 50 years.

**EVERLYN GLENNIE**, percussionist,

on **GLENN GOULD**  
One of my greatest musical influences is the late Canadian pianist Glenn Gould. One minute I can find crystal-clear words to describe him and why he is of such importance to me, the next I am speechless.

The mechanics of Gould's piano-playing were remarkable. His daring, experimental, erotic musicianship inspired an almost religious fervour, and continues to do so through his many recordings and films. He was an advocate of new music. Often when I'm dealing with a new piece of music and slight tension is brewing, I simply discover Glenn once more and realise the ease, direction and emotion he brought to modern works. He spelt out the word "individual": do your own thing.

**SKIM**, singer from Skunk Anansie,

on **ANGELA DAVIS**  
Role models? Who wants 'em? That phrase has always left me perplexed and irritated. After all, who can be that perfect, that important, that shiny? Most characters that have rocked my world would have curled their lip at being described like that. But if there's one individual I'd love to hang with, it's Angela Davis.

She was one of the main figures in the war against racial oppression in the US in the late sixties and seventies. She's known mainly for her victory over the US government after being on the FBI's list of 10 most wanted fugitives, but since then she has been an exceptional, tireless and wise voice as a lecturer and writer for the cause.

I first came across Davis's work during my idealist student years. I'd heard about her, but I hadn't checked out what she was about and what she'd done. I bought a second-hand book about her Marxist ideas and another book she'd written about her life, and I've been hooked ever since.

At the time I was very active in any group that had an "ism" after it and I was struck by how unselfish she was compared with the power-hungry wankers that had infected the student union. I was this skinny nigger who had subconsciously been fed an identity that stated I wasn't British, and here was this woman who hadn't internalised her insecurities but was using her anger to fight for what she knew was the fair way to treat people. She wasn't up against music journalists that thought she was a clichéd heavy metalster; she was up against a government that wanted to eliminate her because of her belief that blacks were not inferior to whites. I found that extremely powerful and humbling.

**PETER HALL**, former director of the

Old Vic, on **MICHEL SAINT-DENIS**  
The man I think about the most is the great French theatre director and teacher Michel Saint-Denis. He founded the Old Vic theatre school and spent the last years of his life with me. Peter Brook and the RSC in the sixties. He inspired actors like John Gielgud and Peggy Ashcroft. He was very European, not parochial. He had met Brecht and Stanislavsky. He understood theatre and treated it seriously, but not in a pompous way.

Saint-Denis believed that if you ask people to spend two hours of their life with your work, you have to be responsible. You can't be critical. You can't just pass the time. He had an absolute nose for anything phoney. His favourite word was "truth", although that has a Freudian corner ring to it. He could sniff out anything false. If you weren't in a reasonably good mood as a human being, he thought, you couldn't produce anything worthwhile. I loved him very much. He's almost forgotten now. The last generation that remember him includes Dorothy Tutin, Ian Holm and Judi Dench.



Francis Bacon's Study for a Portrait of Van Gogh IV (1957). ...Bacon was strongly influenced by the Dutch master

**EVE ARNOLD**, photographer,

on **HENRI CARTIER-BRESSON**  
I think Cartier-Bresson is the greatest living photographer. He's done just about all of his work on the streets. It's real and unposed; he doesn't set anything up but simply takes the picture with a single small camera. He is extremely perceptive. He feels a place or person or image, so very often the picture doesn't need a caption or explanation. He's not a photo-journalist but a surrealist.

I met him when I was just starting out as a new member of the Magnum group of photographers (which he helped to start). I was very interested in his photography. I studied the way he worked and became very influenced by it. I still think of him as a master and owe him a deep debt of gratitude, not only because of his work but because of what Magnum is responsible for — photographers owning their own copyright. He is still working, and I am still charmed by his work. Someone

once said of Cartier-Bresson that he was in a class of his own. He is extraordinarily gifted.

**SIMON McBURNEY**, director of Theatre de Complicite,

on **JOHN BERGER**  
Influences change through life, but someone who has become very important to me is John Berger, for a number of reasons — not just because I adapted his short stories. In the early eighties he broadcast a programme about time in which he was discussing the difference between film and photography. Film is about the future: we're always looking forward to what is happening next. Photography disappears into the past.

What you do on stage is related to the present. Part of the power of theatre, the place it holds in people's lives, is to do with their conception of time — which is so different from previous generations', particularly as we approach the millennium. We see things in the recent past or the recent future, ultimately squashing out the far future, the deep past and the present. I have tried to create theatre where things happen at this moment when actors are inventing in front of the audience's eyes, relying on a degree of improvisation that changes every night. This heightens the audience's perception. Every play chosen, every scene, every subject matter is strongly related to this moment and how it's going to touch people.

When I met John, it was inevitable that we would get on

incredibly well — and we did. He has a way of living in the world and looking at it that is easy, direct, absolutely inclusive. Principally he deals with words, and I have always been fascinated by gesture. The way he goes about his work is an inspiration. My relations with him have been tremendously liberating, and he has had a critical effect on the work I do.

**CLEO LAINE**, jazz singer,

on **JOHN DANKWORTH**  
Early on, my parents were my inspiration. My father was a singer. He had a great musical knowledge and transferred his love of music to me. My mother was not as musical, but she played the piano and sent me for lessons. The sounds filled the house. My love of music led me to my husband. I auditioned for his jazz band, the Johnny Dankworth Seven, and joined it in 1951. I loved jazz, and the band became my teachers. I knew so little about it, but I soon picked it up.

Other than that, I haven't had people I've wanted to be like: I've always been pretty happy being myself. I've wanted to improve vocally, though, so in my early stages I listened to the three ladies of the period — Sarah Vaughan, Ella Fitzgerald and Billie Holiday, just to find out how they did it. I loved Billie's drama and Ella's technical ability, the capacity for improvisation. I've often wondered if it was as natural as it sounded. There are hints that Ella played the piano a bit, but most of her time she seemed to spend dancing

in the streets. And then there was Sarah with that glorious operatic voice — maybe a bit too much sometimes, but really wonderful. You can get whatever you want from those three.

**GREG PROOPS**, comedian,

on **GEORGE CARLIN**  
I discovered George Carlin when I was at high school, where we would listen to his comedy albums. Even back in the sixties he was doing stuff that was a bit risky, stuff that wouldn't be allowed now on TV, but it forced the audience to think. I met him recently and he said he was so high on coke at the time he can barely remember what he did.

He impresses me not just because he's very funny but because his routine still works. He invented observational humour, but not in a Bill Cosby anecdotal way. He's a serious wordsmith — he's so pithy, he cuts right to it. He pushes the craft of stand-up comedy towards dialogue, moving away from just telling jokes. And he actually has something to say. Sadly, no one in the US bothers to make a point on stage.

Carlin is utterly fearless — you have to be in comedy — and he's never cared what people think.

**HENRY GOODMAN**, actor,

on **JULIET STEVENSON**  
I was very wary of role models when starting out. As a young boy I saw Olivier, of course, but I didn't aspire to be like him. Looking around for people in the landscape I live in — London theatre — Juliet

Stevenson stands out for her emotional honesty. Theatre calls on us actors to use passion in our work with great skill and honesty. I first saw her in Measure for Measure at the RSC in the early eighties, and I remember feeling her drive and humanity. She has this ability to listen to her own voice yet resist temptation in a theatre ruled by egocentricity, to be herself while integrating with her community.

When I look at Juliet's work, from Truly Madly Deeply to the recent Caucasian Chalk Circle, I see a reluctance to get trapped by the limitations of careerism. She pushes herself very hard to share being an artist with the audience, combining humility and passion with huge ambition and hunger.

**MEERA SYAL**, actress and writer,

on **VICTORIA WOOD**  
The first time I saw Victoria Wood on New Faces I was only a kid, but even then I was thinking about writing and performing. This was a time when there were hardly any

women performing their own material on TV — or anywhere else — and I thought she was startling. She wasn't glamorous or apologetic. She didn't seek approval from anyone but was very accessible: you can just imagine having a cup of tea with her. She takes the piss out of people while being sympathetic to them and understanding them, and she's very subversive. She takes an average housewife and gives her wild sexual fantasies.

I always feel the generosity of spirit beneath her comedy. She surrounds herself with strong people and doesn't hog the limelight. I was so encouraged to see women on TV who didn't conform to the Dallas stereotype that I felt able to do stuff about my sensibilities and my world. No one was writing for me, so I had to do it.

**IAN BOSTRIDGE**, tenor, on

**DIETRICH FISCHER-DIESKAU**  
I first heard Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau — the great lieder-singer of the 20th century — in my German lessons at school. He has the most beautiful voice. I felt a real sense of communication, although I didn't know what he was saying exactly. When I was a teenager, I listened to lots of his records, and then later to his recitals.

I met him three years ago and had a lesson with him, which was really exciting. We sang together the song I had just heard him sing — Die Schöne Müllerin. I found it overwhelming. I had idolised him as a lieder-singer for so long and never thought I'd do it.

He doesn't sing any more now, so I don't suppose I'll ever perform with him professionally. But maybe you shouldn't work with your role model. Fischer-Dieskau's performances are virtually perfect, so it would be daunting for me to have him looking over my shoulder. One advantage is that we don't have the same voice — he's a baritone, I'm a tenor.

I don't really aspire to be Fischer-Dieskau any more. Sometimes I might have him in the back of my mind, but now I do my own thing and try to forget him. Role models can be inspiring, but it's something you move away from.

**PETER ANDRE**, pop singer,

on **STEVIE WONDER**  
No one inspires me all the time, in every way, but Stevie Wonder is probably my main musical role model. When I was a little kid growing up in London, I used to listen to him all the time on the radio. Even when I was five or six, his music could determine my mood, make me feel great.

As an adult I'm motivated by lots of different styles. When I wrote the lyrics for my new album, I thought it more important to tell a story — something you're experiencing in your mind and can then communicate to other people. Stevie is one of those people who can give great meaning to his songs: it's not what he writes but how he sings his words. He has taught me to illustrate the lyrics with emotion.

One of Stevie's best songs is Ribbon In The Sky. He was able to visualise everything he sang. I think people like visuals — as the saying goes: "Seeing is believing." I've never seen him live. Every time I tried to, I just missed him.

**DAVID HAIG**, actor,

on **MAX STAFFORD CLARK**  
The first time Max Stafford Clark's work struck me was an amazing scene in his Irish production of The Seamus. Anton Lesser and Harriet Walters were sitting on a bench talking, and I felt as if I was overhearing a private conversation. Max caught the emotion, making it more potent. I was astonished.

He was the first director I had come across who seemed to completely support a method of acting that wasn't grandiose but a careful, accurate reproduction of behaviour, which seemed to explain why people do the things they do. It's a technique I've used ever since. So it was the fulfilment of a dream to work with him.

The first time was on The Harbour by Andrea Dunbar, a powerful play on a Bradford housing figure in those days, and I was in awe of his status. He had a laser-like quality of directing. Every time you were feeling smug or complacent, he would suddenly set you back and make you reassess everything you had achieved.

His commitment to the theatre is uncompromising, from his time at the Royal Court, where he produced brilliant stuff, to his recent Shopping And Fucking.

We have similar backgrounds and personalities. We're both obsessive and come from a certain world and way of behaving. When I started writing my own play, he was the first person I sent an early sketch to. His advice radically altered the course of the play.



'Even when I was five or six, his music could determine my mood, make me feel great'  
**Peter Andre** on **Stevie Wonder**



'It was so encouraging to see women on TV who didn't conform to the Dallas stereotype'  
**Meera Syal** on **Victoria Wood**



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# Racing

## Easterby chaser can prove equal to the challenge

Don Cox

PETER EASTERBY won plenty of good prizes at Ascot during his time as the country's top dual-purpose trainer, and since taking over the reins at Great Haddon nearly two years ago his son Tim has readily upheld the Malton stable's fine tradition. Tim has sent just six jumpers to Ascot and three of them have won, including Simply Dashing in the valuable First National Bank Gold Cup in November.

It goes without saying that Cumbrin Challenge is not making the trip south for today's Victor Chandler Handicap Chase for the good of his health. The nine-year-old is on a roll, having reeled off four consecutive wins at Wetherby. He has also shown useful form over the tricky Ascot chase course, will not be troubled by the testing ground and remains on a favourable mark despite a 4lb penalty. Like so many chasers who enjoy a good novice season, Cumbrin Challenge rather than the following one, but he has bounced right back and it is worth recalling some of his excellent efforts in 1995/96.

He won four times and ran particularly well in defeat against Ask Tom at Haydock when, attempting to concede 3lb, he was beaten just a length and a quarter. Cumbrin Challenge was third behind Senior El Betruti and Challenger du Lac, giving both 7lb, at Ascot, and earlier won by 25 lengths over today's course and distance. Little wonder he paid the price in handicaps last season. But, having been cleverly placed at Wetherby this time, he looks ready for a step back up in class.

The absence of original top-weight Ask Tom and subsequent 11lb rise in the weights has helped Cumbrin Challenge, who was languishing 4lb out of the handicap, but Mulligan looks vulnerable having to give weight all round. He has fallen in three of his last four outings and is badly in need of a confidence-restorer. Despite finishing third to Ask Tom at Sandown, Or Royal gives the impression he is more effective on a left-hand course. He was at his best when winning last season's Arkle Chase at Cheltenham, but might struggle to confirm that form with third-placed Cellbata, who is 5lb better off for six and a half lengths.

Cellbata put a few below-par efforts behind him with a resounding six-lengths defeat of Lord Dorset at Ascot last month, when the going was a lot more testing than the official description of good to soft would suggest. Lord Dorset, who was making his seasonal debut and has a 4lb pull with Cellbata, appeared to show vast improvement against Viking Flagship at Wetherby. But the proximity of Down The Fall in third shows just how misleading that form is, and Cellbata is once again preferred.

Jaffell, from the in-form Irish stable of Arthur Moore, beat Cellbata a length and a half on level terms at Punchestown last week. He needs everything to go his way, though, and ran badly behind Simply Dashing here in November. Cumbrin Challenge (2.20) has looked a tricky ride on occasions, but has battled away this season and can provide another Ascot success at the main expense of Cellbata. The Top And Green Handicap Hurdle will be a race worthy of close scrutiny. The 14 runners include Bellator, who has already been backed for the Tote Gold Trophy and shaped quite well on his belated reappearance at Sandown.



Top-quality stock... Morstock (right) clears the third last on his way to winning the Easter Hero Chase at Kempton

PHOTO: JULIAN HERBERT/ALLSPORT

## Sheikh Mohammed supports BHB plea for financial help

SHEIKH Mohammed bin Hamdan Al Maktoum has given their support to the British Horseracing Board's newly unveiled financial plan, *Veritas Turf Policy*. They have urged the BHB to put the plan to the Government "as soon as possible", but Sheikh Mohammed repeated his threat that his family will quit racing in Britain if a "fairer" financial structure is not introduced. The pair's comments came after BHB director Peter Savill hailed as a success the visit he and John Gosden made to Dubai to discuss the financial plan, published two days ago, with the two leading owners in Dubai.

Sheikh Hamdan delivered one blow to British racing yesterday with his decision to move Middle Park Stakes winner Hayil and 11 other ex-Dubai horses to be trained in France. The announcement came hot on the heels of the news that Melanie Morley will not be a member of High Hangers Stables in Newmarket. Mrs Morley initially took out a temporary licence following her husband David's death earlier this month. Celeric's victory in the Ascot Gold Cup last June was the biggest victory enjoyed by Morley, who died on January 5 at the age of 58. Celeric is one of more than 30 horses left at High Hangers.

The Toby Balding stable has been right out of form, however, and it remains to be seen whether Bellator has retained the ability which enabled him to win twice early last season. L'Opera's poor comeback run is probably best ignored, but with the ground very much in his favour Red Blazer (3.55) looks the answer. He is unlikely not to be unbeaten over hurdles and is very highly rated by Henrietta Knight. On a marathon card at Warwick, the lightly-weighted and progressive Ceridwen (2.35) can show the way in the marathon Tote Warwick National Chase. Following a promising pipe-opener over fences at Ayr, Cittadino (4.00) could prove very well treated in the James Robson Clark Handicap Chase at Newcastle.

remains at the head of the pack. Trainer David Nicholson last lifted the juvenile hurdle crown when the prolific Mysliv struck in 1994 and has high hopes for his latest recruit. "He's been a natural since day one," he enthused. Zafarabad was secured privately from the Aga Khan for Elaine Baines after he ran fifth in the German Derby. He initially joined Roger Charlton with a view to running on the Flat and worked with Pentad. But Pentad, rated superior on the level, found Zafarabad different class over jumps here as he trailed in

more than 40 lengths adrift in seventh. Road Racer, 7-4 favourite, was up against a potentially smart debutant in Cool Edge, a Group Three winner on the Flat, in the Ashford Novice Hurdle, but that rival ran out of stamina turning into the straight and was eased down to finish seventh as Road Racer romped to a 21-length success from Deal Or Bust. Although he handled yesterday's soft surface, similar conditions at Cheltenham could rule him out, according to trainer Paul Webber. "Road Racer is developing into a nice horse, but he won't go to Cheltenham if it

is soft. He might be more of a Liverpool horse," he said. Lastoff finished second to Road Racer on his debut at Ludlow and followed it up by taking division two of the Ashford Novice Hurdle by 10 lengths. Stan Mellor, who broke a four-months losing spell over jumps when Azzurro cantered denied diabetic Jonathan Lower a comeback win on Thursday, struck again with Royal Arctic in the Staines RFC Conditional Jockeys' Novice Handicap Hurdle. Banned rider David Walsh is on the verge of making a comeback after admitting he misses "the buzz of racing".

The reigning joint champion conditional jockey has not ridden since he received a one-month ban last May after traces of amphetamines were found in his sample in a drug test. He had been thought likely to sit out the whole season, but has now revealed that he plans to return soon after winning a battle against weight problems. Carliste will hold a 3.00pm inspection tomorrow to decide if the meeting scheduled for Tuesday can go ahead. The going is currently described as heavy, soft in places with the race course affected by water-logged patches.

## Zafarabad win has Triumph written all over it

Tony Paley

ZAFARABAD leapt to the head of the Elite Racing Club Triumph Hurdle hitting with a smooth victory on his jumping debut at Kempton yesterday. The grey, installed 8-1 favourite by Ladbrokes but still available at 12-1 with the bookies, comfortably kicked away from Borazon to clinch the Walton Juvenile Novice Hurdle by two-and-a-half-lengths. Ireland's Rainbow Frontier is the 7-1 favourite, while Rainwater, who beat Borazon by three lengths on his last start,

remains at the head of the pack. Trainer David Nicholson last lifted the juvenile hurdle crown when the prolific Mysliv struck in 1994 and has high hopes for his latest recruit. "He's been a natural since day one," he enthused. Zafarabad was secured privately from the Aga Khan for Elaine Baines after he ran fifth in the German Derby. He initially joined Roger Charlton with a view to running on the Flat and worked with Pentad. But Pentad, rated superior on the level, found Zafarabad different class over jumps here as he trailed in

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## Ascot programme with TV form guide

TIME	NAME	FORM
1.15	Victor Chandler Novice Hurdle	1-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100-101-102-103-104-105-106-107-108-109-110-111-112-113-114-115-116-117-118-119-120-121-122-123-124-125-126-127-128-129-130-131-132-133-134-135-136-137-138-139-140-141-142-143-144-145-146-147-148-149-150-151-152-153-154-155-156-157-158-159-160-161-162-163-164-165-166-167-168-169-170-171-172-173-174-175-176-177-178-179-180-181-182-183-184-185-186-187-188-189-190-191-192-193-194-195-196-197-198-199-200-201-202-203-204-205-206-207-208-209-210-211-212-213-214-215-216-217-218-219-220-221-222-223-224-225-226-227-228-229-230-231-232-233-234-235-236-237-238-239-240-241-242-243-244-245-246-247-248-249-250-251-252-253-254-255-256-257-258-259-260-261-262-263-264-265-266-267-268-269-270-271-272-273-274-275-276-277-278-279-280-281-282-283-284-285-286-287-288-289-290-291-292-293-294-295-296-297-298-299-300-301-302-303-304-305-306-307-308-309-310-311-312-313-314-315-316-317-318-319-320-321-322-323-324-325-326-327-328-329-330-331-332-333-334-335-336-337-338-339-340-341-342-343-344-345-346-347-348-349-350-351-352-353-354-355-356-357-358-359-360-361-362-363-364-365-366-367-368-369-370-371-372-373-374-375-376-377-378-379-380-381-382-383-384-385-386-387-388-389-390-391-392-393-394-395-396-397-398-399-400-401-402-403-404-405-406-407-408-409-410-411-412-413-414-415-416-417-418-419-420-421-422-423-424-425-426-427-428-429-430-431-432-433-434-435-436-437-438-439-440-441-442-443-444-445-446-447-448-449-450-451-452-453-454-455-456-457-458-459-460-461-462-463-464-465-466-467-468-469-470-471-472-473-474-475-476-477-478-479-480-481-482-483-484-485-486-487-488-489-490-491-492-493-494-495-496-497-498-499-500-501-502-503-504-505-506-507-508-509-510-511-512-513-514-515-516-517-518-519-520-521-522-523-524-525-526-527-528-529-530-531-532-533-534-535-536-537-538-539-540-541-542-543-544-545-546-547-548-549-550-551-552-553-554-555-556-557-558-559-560-561-562-563-564-565-566-567-568-569-570-571-572-573-574-575-576-577-578-579-580-581-582-583-584-585-586-587-588-589-590-591-592-593-594-595-596-597-598-599-600-601-602-603-604-605-606-607-608-609-610-611-612-613-614-615-616-617-618-619-620-621-622-623-624-625-626-627-628-629-630-631-632-633-634-635-636-637-638-639-640-641-642-643-644-645-646-647-648-649-650-651-652-653-654-655-656-657-658-659-660-661-662-663-664-665-666-667-668-669-670-671-672-673-674-675-676-677-678-679-680-681-682-683-684-685-686-687-688-689-690-691-692-693-694-695-696-697-698-699-700-701-702-703-704-705-706-707-708-709-710-711-712-713-714-715-716-717-718-719-720-721-722-723-724-725-726-727-728-729-730-731-732-733-734-735-736-737-738-739-740-741-742-743-744-745-746-747-748-749-750-751-752-753-754-755-756-757-758-759-760-761-762-763-764-765-766-767-768-769-770-771-772-773-774-775-776-777-778-779-780-781-782-783-784-785-786-787-788-789-790-791-792-793-794-795-796-797-798-799-800-801-802-803-804-805-806-807-808-809-810-811-812-813-814-815-816-817-818-819-820-821-822-823-824-825-826-827-828-829-830-831-832-833-834-835-836-837-838-839-840-841-842-843-844-845-846-847-848-849-850-851-852-853-854-855-856-857-858-859-860-861-862-863-864-865-866-867-868-869-870-871-872-873-874-875-876-877-878-879-880-881-882-883-884-885-886-887-888-889-890-891-892-893-894-895-896-897-898-899-900-901-902-903-904-905-906-907-908-909-910-911-912-913-914-915-916-917-918-919-920-921-922-923-924-925-926-927-928-929-930-931-932-933-934-935-936-937-938-939-940-941-942-943-944-945-946-947-948-949-950-951-952-953-954-955-956-957-958-959-960-961-962-963-964-965-966-967-968-969-970-971-972-973-974-975-976-977-978-979-980-981-982-983-984-985-986-987-988-989-990-991-992-993-994-995-996-997-998-999-1000-1001-1002-1003-1004-1005-1006-1007-1008-1009-1010-1011-1012-1013-1014-1015-1016-1017-1018-1019-1020-1021-1022-1023-1024-1025-1026-1027-1028-1029-1030-1031-1032-1033-1034-1035-1036-1037-1038-1039-1040-1041-1042-1043-1044-1045-1046-1047-1048-1049-1050-1051-1052-1053-1054-1055-1056-1057-1058-1059-1060-1061-1062-1063-1064-1065-1066-1067-1068-1069-1070-1071-1072-1073-1074-1075-1076-1077-1078-1079-1080-1081-1082-1083-1084-1085-1086-1087-1088-1089-1090-1091-1092-1093-1094-1095-1096-1097-1098-1099-1100-1101-1102-1103-1104-1105-1106-1107-1108-1109-1110-1111-1112-1113-1114-1115-1116-1117-1118-1119-1120-1121-1122-1123-1124-1125-1126-1127-1128-1129-1130-1131-1132-1133-1134-1135-1136-1137-1138-1139-1140-1141-1142-1143-1144-1145-1146-1147-1148-1149-1150-1151-1152-1153-1154-1155-1156-1157-1158-1159-1160-1161-1162-1163-1164-1165-1166-1167-1168-1169-1170-1171-1172-1173-1174-1175-1176-1177-1178-1179-1180-1181-1182-1183-1184-1185-1186-1187-1188-1189-1190-1191-1192-1193-1194-1195-1196-1197-1198-1199-1200-1201-1202-1203-1204-1205-1206-1207-1208-1209-1210-1211-1212-1213-1214-1215-1216-1217-1218-1219-1220-1221-1222-1223-1224-1225-1226-1227-1228-1229-1230-1231-1232-1233-1234-1235-1236-1237-1238-1239-1240-1241-1242-1243-1244-1245-1246-1247-1248-1249-1250-1251-1252-1253-1254-1255-1256-1257-1258-1259-1260-1261-1262-1263-1264-1265-1266-1267-1268-1269-1270-1271-1272-1273-1274-1275-1276-1277-1278-1279-1280-1281-1282-1283-1284-1285-1286-1287-1288-1289-1290-1291-1292-1293-1294-1295-1296-1297-1298-1299-1300-1301-1302-1303-1304-1305-1306-1307-1308-1309-1310-1311-1312-1313-1314-1315-1316-1317-1318-1319-1320-1321-1322-1323-1324-1325-1326-1327-1328-1329-1330-1331-1332-1333-1334-1335-1336-1337-1338-1339-1340-1341-1342-1343-1344-1345-1346-1347-1348-1349-1350-1351-1352-1353-1354-1355-1356-1357-1358-1359-1360-1361-1362-1363-1364-1365-1366-1367-1368-1369-1370-1371-1372-1373-1374-1375-1376-1377-1378-1379-1380-1381-1382-1383-1384-1385-1386-1387-1388-1389-1390-1391-1392-1393-1394-1395-1396-1397-1398-1399-1400-1401-1402-1403-1404-1405-1406-1407-1408-1409-1410-1411-1412-1413-1414-1415-1416-1417-1418-1419-1420-1421-1422-1423-1424-1425-1426-1427-1428-1429-1430-1431-1432-1433-1434-1435-1436-1437-1438-1439-1440-1441-1442-1443-1444-1445-1446-1447-1448-1449-1450-1451-1452-1453-1454-1455-1456-1457-1458-1459-1460-1461-1462-1463-1464-1465-1466-1467-1468-1469-1470-1471-1472-1473-1474-1475-1476-1477-1478-1479-1480-1481-1482-1483-1484-1485-1486-1487-1488-1489-1490-1491-1492-1493-1494-1495-1496-1497-1498-1499-1500-1501-1502-1503-1504-1505-1506-1507-1508-1509-1510-1511-1512-1513-1514-1515-1516-1517-1518-1519-1520-1521-1522-1523-1524-1525-1526-1527-1528-1529-1530-1531-1532-1533-1534-1535-1536-1537-1538-1539-1540-1541-1542-1543-1544-1545-1546-1547-1548-1549-1550-1551-1552-1553-1554-1555-1556-1557-1558-1559-1560-1561-1562-1563-1564-1565-1566-1567-1568-1569-1570-1571-1572-1573-1574-1575-1576-1577-1578-1579-1580-1581-1582-1583-1584-1585-1586-1587-1588-1589-1590-1591-1592-1593-1594-1595-1596-1597-1598-1599-1600-1601-1602-1603-1604-1605-1606-1607-1608-1609-1610-1611-1612-1613-1614-1615-1616-1617-1618-1619-1620-1621-1622-1623-1624-1625-1626-1627-1628-1629-1630-1631-1632-1633-1634-1635-1636-1637-1638-1639-1640-1641-1642-1643-1644-1645-1646-1647-1648-1649-1650-1651-1652-1653-1654-1655-1656-1657-1658-1659-1660-1661-1662-1663-1664-1665-1666-1667-1668-1669-1670-1671-1672-1673-1674-1675-1676-1677-1678-1679-1680-1681-1682-1683-1684-1685-1686-1687-1688-1689-1690-1691-1692-1693-1694-1695-1696-1697-1698-1699-1700-1701-1702-1703-1704-1705-1706-1707-1708-1709-1710-1711-1712-1713-1714-1715-1716-1717-1718-1719-1720-1721-1722-1723-1724-1725-1726-1727-1728-1729-1730-1731-1732-1733-1734-1735-1736-1737-1738-1739-1740-1741-1742-1743-1744-1745-1746-1747-1748-1749-1750-1751-1752-1753-1754-1755-1756-1757-1758-1759-1760-1761-1762-1763-1764-1765-1766-1767-1768-1769-1770-1771-1772-1773-1774-1775-1776-1777-1778-1779-1780-1781-1782-1783-1784-1785-1786-1787-1788-1789-1790-1791-1792-1793-1794-1795-1796-1797-1798-1799-1800-1801-1802-1803-1804-1805-1806-1807-1808-1809-1810-1811-1812-1813-1814-1815-1816-1817-1818-1819-1820-1821-1822-1823-1824-1825-1826-1827-1828-1829-1830-1831-1832-1833-1834-1835-1836-1837-1838-1839-1840-1841-1842-1843-1844-1845-1846-1847-1848-1849-1850-1851-1852-1853-1854-1855-1856-1857-1858-1859-1860-1861-1862-1863-1864-1865-1866-1867-1868-1869-1870-1871-1872-1873-1874-1875-1876-1877-1878-1879-1880-1881-1882-1883-1884-1885-1886-1887-1888-1889-1890-1891-1892-1893-1894-1895-1896-1897-1898-1899-1900-1901-1902-1903-1904-1905-1906-1907-1908-1909-1910-1911-1912-1913-1914-1915-1916-1917-1918-1919-1920-1921-1922-1923-1924-1925-1926-1927-1928-1929-1930-1931-1932-1933-1934-1935-1936-1937-1938-1939-1940-1941-1942-1943-1944-1945-1946-1947-1948-1949-1950-1951-1952-1953-1954-1955-1956-1957-1958-1959-1960-1961-1962-1963-1964-1



Sainsbury's Classic Cola Cup final

Leicester are in with a shout of winning their first major trophy, **Robert Pryce** reports.

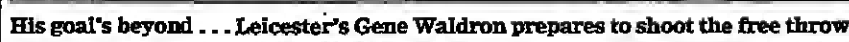
People ask me why I stayed in Leicester," he said yesterday. "Tomorrow's going to show the reason why."

After 14 years, more than 250 games and 5,000 points, he is a little more settled. "People ask me why I stayed in Leicester," he said yesterday. "Tomorrow's going to show the reason why."

Waldron will start today's

Relationships have been calmer this week. Leicester are not used to the big occasion and Dooewald has been concerned that they should not be too wound up for the final. "It will be won by the more relaxed of the two teams, which is why we're taking the light-hearted approach," he says. "We'll go in smiling."

This seems unlikely, if only because oerves and bopes are drawn after 30 fruitless seasons. Ted Waldron explain. "It's a big thing for me," he says. "Tomorrow is really, really important. I mean the first-year guys too the team have no idea how big this game is, for me and the club."



# Klim cruises in as China relay teams pull out

In the 200m women's medley Wu Yanyan claimed the country's third gold, breaking line Foot — who came last but moved up to seventh when Belgium were disqualified.

## Knight warms to Sri Lankan test

England plan to use all 14 players today and in next week's three-day game before employing the line-up for the first Test at Kurenegala on January 30 in the preceding four-day match.

**The left-arm spinner Mohammad Hussain took four for 33 as Pakistan squared the three-match Independence Cup final against India in Dhaka.**

## McRae anxious to cover the full Monte

**C**OLIN McRAE knows better than most that every motor rally is something of a gamble. And as he tackles the oldest and most famous of them all, the Monte Carlo, he is hoping to leave the dicing, and especially the high-rolling, to others.

"It's one rally that would be nice to win because of what it is, but I don't enjoy it at all," admitted the former world champion.

No one is faster than McRae on predictable terrain, but although the Monte is largely run on asphalt there is always the possibility of snow, leading to a combination of different surfaces and tyres that demands discipline and luck.

Such conditions do not suit the Scot's expansive style, as his dreadful record in the event proves. His three previous attempts have ended in two accidents and a 10th place, and a vehement note

creeps into his voice when the event — starting on Monday — is mentioned.

"It's so competitive now. The cars are advanced, but in inclement conditions they're not easy to control. And when you're on Tarmac tyres and have to go down icy mountainsides you must go as fast as you can."

"Everybody says, 'Oh, just take it easy on the slippery stuff,' but you've got to push as hard as you think possible. I think a lot of the stages are very dangerous, not because of the slippery conditions but because there are a lot of big drops and a lot of things you can hit."

Winning will be harder than ever this year. Toyota are returning in strength with two former world champions, Carlos Sainz and Didier Auriol, but there is so little to choose between McRae, Sainz, Sainz, the Fords, Mitsubishi and Peugeot that timing to the nearest 10th of a second is being introduced.

There are 13 rounds of the world championship to go and McRae, who lost last season's world title by a single point, needs no reminding that consistency matters as much as speed.

Aside from his fellow Briton

Richard Burns he is the youngest of the elite and, even though he lost the world title to a Swedish finisher, Gunnar Tomm, Makinen, the three leading victors that completed his 1964 season suggested that he was establishing a superiority comparable to Michael Schumacher's.

"If you're confident — or more confident than anyone else — it will carry you along a lot quicker for a while," he said. "It's just finding the balance where to stop."

On recent form, he is no longer finding that balance so difficult. Victory in the Monte would confirm that.

## Lingfield all-weather programme

	BOM GUX	TOP FORM
1.05	Chingachgook	Urra Smoker
1.40	Mytical	Urra Beet
2.10	Red Pepper	Phantom Ring
2.45	Nicoba	Nicoba
3.20	Shades of Love	Robo Magic
3.50	Cossack Count	Cossack Count

All-weather, Equitrac, left-handed course laid out inside turf track and only 1 1/4 mi. round. No straight sprint track.  
Goiings: Standard. \* Denotes blinkers.  
Drums: Low number = an advantage in sprints.  
Long distance travelers: A Plan for Profit (3.50), M. Johnston, N. York, 270 miles.  
Seven day winners: 2.45 Acoson.  
Breeders' Cup: 2.10 Prince of Sales, 3.20 Meridico, Vlasovoe: None.  
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. J.Jumps.

# 1.05 STUBBS AMATEUR RIDERS' HANDICAP

1m 41 \$2,295 (17 declared)

1 (10)	0446	De Notras (J25)	3	G L Moore	6-11-7	1	M Longene (7)	---
2 (10)	6202	De Notras (J25)	3	G L Moore	6-11-7	2	M Longene (7)	---
3 (17)	3350	Mr. Gould (B)	4	Mrs S Stover	4-11-0	3	Wm L. Sauer	85
4 (10)	0002	Chalchicapa (C)	8	Mrs S Stover	4-11-0	4	G Gould	85
5 (17)	02000	Call My Sister (J25)	3	H Perotok	6-15-2	5	Mrs C Perotok	85
6 (10)	0425	De Notras (J25)	3	G L Moore	6-11-7	6	M Longene (7)	---
7 (14)	0550	Miss Shiloh (C)	8	R Hanco	4-10-3	7	Mrs A Perotok	85
8 (10)	0550	Miss Shiloh (C)	8	R Hanco	4-10-3	8	C Wines	84

6(12)	07003	Howe and Smith (1986) 9-10	M. J. Moore 5-10-7	W. J. Moore	20
6(12)	07004	Chile Peak (1986) 9-10	J. Jenkins 9-10-5	M. H. Menden	21
11	06001	06001			
11(16)	06004	Manahat (11) 9-10	J. Jenkins 7-9-11	V. L. Landon	25
12	06042	Manahat (12) 9-10	J. Jenkins 4-10-11	M. J. Moore	26
12(12)	06043	Manahat (12) 9-10	J. Jenkins 4-10-11	M. J. Moore	27
14	06000	Manahat (14) 9-10	J. Jenkins 9-9-8	J. Jenkins	28
14(16)	06000	Manahat (14) 9-10	J. Jenkins 9-9-8	J. Jenkins	29
16	06000	Manahat (16) 9-10	J. Jenkins 9-9-8	J. Jenkins	30
16(11)	06033	Manahat (16) 9-10	J. Jenkins 9-9-8	J. Jenkins	31
17	06033	Manahat (17) 9-10	J. Jenkins 9-9-8	J. Jenkins	32

**1.40 HARRINGTON BIRD CLAIMING STAKES**  
 \$612,762 (7 declared)

1	5300-4	Notley Stakes (100) Q1 R Hanna 4-5-3	W J O'Connor	57
2	5300-5	Notley Stakes (100) Q1 R Hanna 4-5-3	E Hatcher	57
3	5300-6	Notley Stakes (100) Q1 R Hanna 4-5-3	L Lowther	57
4	5300-7	Notley Stakes (100) Q1 R Hanna 4-5-3	L Lowther	57
5	5300-8	Notley Stakes (100) Q1 R Hanna 4-5-3	L Lowther	57
6	5300-9	Notley Stakes (100) Q1 R Hanna 4-5-3	L Lowther	57
7	5300-10	Notley Stakes (100) Q1 R Hanna 4-5-3	L Lowther	57

6-8	A-009	Singapore Office (S) D Williams 4-6-3		Enly Joyce	18-1
7-9	D-005	Secretary (MEL) (S) J Edgar 5-6-0		P Dan	
7-10	C-005	Prisons (P) S J Shaw 4-7-32		A MacIntyre	
<hr/>					
10-11 B-1 Medical, B-1 Ultra Book, B-1 Ridley Stanley, 10-1 The Frisky Fraser, Melbourne Phoenix, 14-1 Superstar, 33-1 Singly One.					
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<b>2.10 SHAFLES MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES 3Y0</b> 6f £2,712 (7 declared)					

12	04	Michigan State (2) W Michigan 5-0	W O'Brien	
21	05	Pacific of Idaho (2) W Montana 5-0	W J O'Connor	
26	06	Idaho (2) W Oregon 5-0	W J O'Connor	
31	07	Idaho (2) W Oregon 5-0	W J O'Connor	
36	08	Idaho (2) W Oregon 5-0	W J O'Connor	
41	09	Idaho (2) W Oregon 5-0	W J O'Connor	
46	10	Idaho (2) W Oregon 5-0	W J O'Connor	
51	11	Idaho (2) W Oregon 5-0	W J O'Connor	
56	12	Idaho (2) W Oregon 5-0	W J O'Connor	
61	13	Idaho (2) W Oregon 5-0	W J O'Connor	
66	14	Idaho (2) W Oregon 5-0	W J O'Connor	
71	15	Idaho (2) W Oregon 5-0	W J O'Connor	
76	16	Idaho (2) W Oregon 5-0	W J O'Connor	
81	17	Idaho (2) W Oregon 5-0	W J O'Connor	
86	18	Idaho (2) W Oregon 5-0	W J O'Connor	
91	19	Idaho (2) W Oregon 5-0	W J O'Connor	
96	20	Idaho (2) W Oregon 5-0	W J O'Connor	
101	21	Idaho (2) W Oregon 5-0	W J O'Connor	
106	22	Idaho (2) W Oregon 5-0	W J O'Connor	
111	23	Idaho (2) W Oregon 5-0	W J O'Connor	
116	24	Idaho (2) W Oregon 5-0	W J O'Connor	
121	25	Idaho (2) W Oregon 5-0	W J O'Connor	
126	26	Idaho (2) W Oregon 5-0	W J O'Connor	
131	27	Idaho (2) W Oregon 5-0	W J O'Connor	
136	28	Idaho (2) W Oregon 5-0	W J O'Connor	
141	29	Idaho (2) W Oregon 5-0	W J O'Connor	
146	30	Idaho (2) W Oregon 5-0	W J O'Connor	
151	31	Idaho (2) W Oregon 5-0	W J O'Connor	
156	32	Idaho (2) W Oregon 5-0	W J O'Connor	
161	33	Idaho (2) W Oregon 5-0	W J O'Connor	
166	34	Idaho (2) W Oregon 5-0	W J O'Connor	
171	35	Idaho (2) W Oregon 5-0	W J O'Connor	
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996	200	Idaho (2) W Oregon 5-0	W J O'Connor	

Starting: 12-0 Missoula The Owl, 5-4 Proctor Ray, 11-4 Red Peeper, 13-2 Chipmunk, 12-1 Martens, 25-1 Nags.  
Missing: Prince of Gales.

12	04	Michigan State (2) W Michigan 5-0	W O'Brien	
21	05	Pacific of Idaho (2) W Montana 5-0	W J O'Connor	
26	06	Idaho (2) W Oregon 5-0	W J O'Connor	
31	07	Idaho (2) W Oregon 5-0	W J O'Connor	
36	08	Idaho (2) W Oregon 5-0	W J O'Connor	
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936	188	Idaho (2) W Oregon 5-0	W J O'Connor	
941	189	Idaho (2) W Oregon 5-0	W J O'Connor	
946	190	Idaho (2) W Oregon 5-0	W J O'Connor	
951	191	Idaho (2) W Oregon 5-0	W J O'Connor	
956	192	Idaho (2) W Oregon 5-0	W J O'Connor	
961	193	Idaho (2) W Oregon 5-0	W J O'Connor	
966	194	Idaho (2) W Oregon 5-0	W J O'Connor	
971	195	Idaho (2) W Oregon 5-0	W J O'Connor	
976	196	Idaho (2) W Oregon 5-0	W J O'Connor	
981	197	Idaho (2) W Oregon 5-0	W J O'Connor	
986	198	Idaho (2) W Oregon 5-0	W J O'Connor	
991	199	Idaho (2) W Oregon 5-0	W J O'Connor	
996	200	Idaho (2) W Oregon 5-0	W J O'Connor	

Starting: 12-0 Missoula The Owl, 5-4 Proctor Ray, 11-4 Red Peeper, 13-2 Chipmunk, 12-1 Martens, 25-1 Nags.  
Missing: Prince of Gales.

## Trainer watch

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**Ryder f**







**Australian Open:** Pete Sampras's Grand Slam domination, says **Stephen Bierley**, will face a stern test from the world No.2

to last year he had never progressed beyond the first round of the US Open.

Tim Essman, a little heavier and a little sharper around the court, will be back in the first round of his run of last year when he reached the third round before losing to Michael Chang of the United States. That he has done well in the Sydney Open again will have encouraged him to expect a quarter-final defeat in Doha.

The women's tournament, if anything, promises to be even more exciting. Steffi Graf is still injured and her future in doubt, and Monica Seles, who has been injured also, is missing, but all eyes will be on Martina Hingis and the two Williams sisters, Venus and Serena.

**Rising star . . .** Pat Rafter has moved up 60 places in a year.

Hings, but for a fall off a friend's horse, might well have won all four Grand Slams last year. Croatia's best tennis player in the French Open when the Swiss teenager was patently not fully fit.


Last year's Australian

Open was Hings's first major title. She appeared a little overwrought and more than a bit nervous in Sydney this week when she lost to Venus Williams, but like Sampras, who is chasing his 11th Slam title in Melbourne, Hings is a big-match player.

**Bringing down Rafter ... Henman on his way to an impressive straight-sets victory over the world No.2 yesterday**



# Battle of Britons for spot in semis



**BRITAIN** is guaranteed a men's semi-finalist in this year's Australian Open — provided Greg Rusedski and Tim Henman win their way through to the quarters.

The national No. 1 and No. 2 were yesterday drawn to meet in the last eight of the season's opening Grand Slam event, which starts at Melbourne Park on Monday.

But first Rusedski, the No. 5 seed, will probably have to dispose of Brazil's French Open champion Gustavo Kuerten in the second round, and Henman must clear a path through the American No. 3 seed Michael Chang and the moody but marvelous Croatian Goran Ivanisevic.

The rather better news from the draw was that both Britons will face qualifiers in the first round.

Pete Sampras starts the defence of his title against the only Dutchman in the draw, Sjeng Schalken, who took a set off him in Philadelphia last year, and the women's champion Martina Hingis has a tricky road to the final, with the Russian prodigy Anna Kournikova blocking the way in the third round.

The 17-year-old Swiss miss beat Mary Pierce here last year to claim her first Grand Slam title and this time is drawn to meet the fifth-seeded Frenchwoman in the quarter-finals.

But the most intriguing prospect of the opening few days will be a sisterly clash in the second round between the Williams wonders, Venus and Serena — provided the 16-year-old Serena can eliminate the No. 8 seed Irina Stulic of Romania.

PHOTOGRAPH: CLIVE BRUNSKILL

## New steer for Silk Cut

been uneasy about their relationship since the first leg, and Hayes is now said to have "stepped down".

Smith commented: "I'm sorry Steve has decided not to continue with the race and I understand and support his reasons for stepping aside. It was time for a change, fresh ideas and a fresh approach." Geake sailed with Smith in the 1968-69 race aboard *Robert*, the navigator on his ill-fated *Fortuna*, which was dismasted after 24 hours of the first leg four years ago.

The 6,670-mile fifth leg, from Auckland to Sao Sebastiao in Brazil, begins on Sunday February 1.

## Surbiton lose top scorer as Nicol stays home

Canterbury must fancy their title chances. They have won four of their six matches against the top sides and have the easiest run-in. Sean Kerin the former Olympic player, is now available regularly.

Canterbury will be watched by Barry Dancer, the Australian who has taken over as England coach, when they visit Hounslow tomorrow. Hounslow will be without Andy Whalley (injured) but they welcome back Brett Gilmon after his shoulder injury.

The free-scoring German, Eiko Rott is likely to join Southgate next week. Danny Kerry replaces Billy Waugh as captain.

[illegible][illegible][illegible]



**A**PPARENTLY Newcastle have sold Asprilla because they want to buy the staff tickets for the Stevenage Cup tie.

Battle:  
Britons  
for sea  
in sea  
B. C.





## Final frontier

Henman back to his best in Sydney

22

The Guardian

# sport

www.football.guardian.co.uk

## Fratton money talks as Tel takes a walk

Martin Thorpe

**T**HERRY VENABLES finally severed all links with Portsmouth yesterday, opening the way for a £30 million takeover of the First Division club aimed at turning them into a Premier-ship force.

Venable had stalled on signing an agreement to relinquish his claim to a 51 per cent shareholding in Portsmouth after questioning the terms of the offer made to him last Monday.

But agreement has now been reached and this week the club's new chairman Martin Gregory will meet the American billionaire Vince Wollman and the rock singer-cum-Pompey fan Brian Howe for further talks over their potential buy-out.

The pair had refused to inject desperately needed money into the First Division's bottom club while Venable, who was this week banned from being a company director for seven years, remained connected with Fratton Park.

But yesterday Venable's lawyer Nick Trainor confirmed: "Terry no longer has any connection with Portsmouth Football Club. An offer was made to us on Monday which required tightening up. But that has now been resolved. It would not be right to reveal the precise terms of the settlement."

Venable, who was offered control of Portsmouth last February for £1, has been paid about £250,000 to walk away and allow Gregory to recover the 97 per cent controlling interest owned by his family.

The club are losing around £150,000 a month and need gates of 16,000 for home matches to break even. Venable claims that this is a far healthier position than he inherited. But a wage bill of more than £200,000 a month has led to Gregory underwriting costs to keep Portsmouth running.

Gregory said that the former director Terry Brady — father of Birmingham City's managing director Karim — would soon rejoin the club. Meanwhile, the search is on for a manager to replace Terry Fenwick, sacked last week. However, no appointment is likely to be made until the takeover is completed or rejected.

## Slow start to the Caribbean tour



Body blow... Mike Atherton winces as he is hit off the bowling of Onell Richards yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: CLIVE MASON

Jamaica v England XI

## England crawl but Crawley stands firm on uneven ground

David Morley in Montego Bay sees the tourists get careless on the scrubby grass

**E**NGLAND faced an immediate challenge on a poor pitch of uneven bounce and irregular pace. But John Crawley responded well enough here yesterday to indicate that the selectors have acted wisely in handing him their troublesome No. 3 batting spot.

With the first Test against West Indies only a fortnight away and only two warm-up matches in which to formulate tactics, England's team for this opening four-day meeting with Jamaica at Jarrett Park said much about current thinking.

Crawley, dropped for the last game of the Ashes summer, was given his chance here and, though a score of 25 may not sound much to write home about, his technique and temperament stood up well for more than two hours until he was run out through no fault of his own.

Scoring was painfully slow because of both the pitch and a meadow-like outfield until Adam Hobbins arrived to try the aerial route with some success while lifting the total to 137 for four at tea after a mini-collapse in the afternoon.

Given that the first Test will be played on a rain-soaked Kingston pitch of unknown quality, Queen's Park Oval in Trinidad is often a minefield for batsmen and the Recreation Ground at St John's, Antigua, currently resembles a building site. England may one day regard this visit to Montego Bay as a crucially important exercise. Certainly their attitude to it cannot be faulted so far.

Imagine a ground encircled by palm trees with the Caribbean sparkling in the dis-

tance and a white, sandy beach invitingly close. Well, Jarrett Park is nothing like that. What we have here is a football stadium with half-finished concrete stands and some scrubby grass on and off the playing area.

The starting crowd was about 200. Locals say that big football matches here can attract 20,000 supporters, which perhaps underlines the fact that cricket is no longer king in the Caribbean.

England, on the other hand, believe they can rule this time after 30 years of beatings in the West Indies, and by their coach David Lloyd's own admission they are declaring their tactical hand early. "Nothing is set in stone but we have only two matches before the first Test," he said after announcing what can now be considered the selectors' most likely Sabina Park line-up for this game.

The toughest choices must have been at three and six, where the votes were cast in favour of Crawley and Hobbins and against Mark Butcher and Mark Ramprakash. Patience will be a virtue for those two over the next fortnight or so, unless injury or changes of thinking intervene, but that is the way of modern tours when matches outside the internationals are kept to a minimum.

No one looked more composed yesterday than Crawley, who was pressed into service after four overs and with the new ball already behaving badly. Some deliveries took off — such as the one from Onell Richards which brushed the shoulder of Alec Stewart's bat and flew to slip — and others shot through be-

low half stump height. Just as well, then, that Jamaica's attack was without the resting pair Courtney Walsh and Franklin Rose and without a third fast bowler of Test experience in Patrick Patterson. As it was, Richards, Kirk Powell and Laurie Williams posed enough problems during a morning session which spanned 33 overs, yielded only 53 runs and brought only one boundary through the thick grass. There were some narrow escapes, inevitably, for Mike Atherton and his Lancashire team-mate but they deserved their bits of luck by displaying the kind of concentration that will be needed throughout this winter.

What cannot be entertained, though, is careless mess after hard graft, and England were guilty of that during the afternoon session when they slipped from 55 for one to 78 for four.

Atherton, having toiled diligently for two hours over 28 runs, clipped a Powell half-volley straight to square leg. Crawley was left stranded in a mix-up with Nasser Hussain, who first came and then sent back his partner, and the vice-captain then lost patience and worked the spinner Gareth Brese off his pads and into the hands of midwicket.

England XI	
Test debut: David Morley b Powell	25
A J Stewart b Brese b Richards	1
J P Crawley run out	25
M A Atherton c Adams b Brese	18
G P Thorpe not out	23
A J Hobbins not out	40
Sains (16, 11)	4

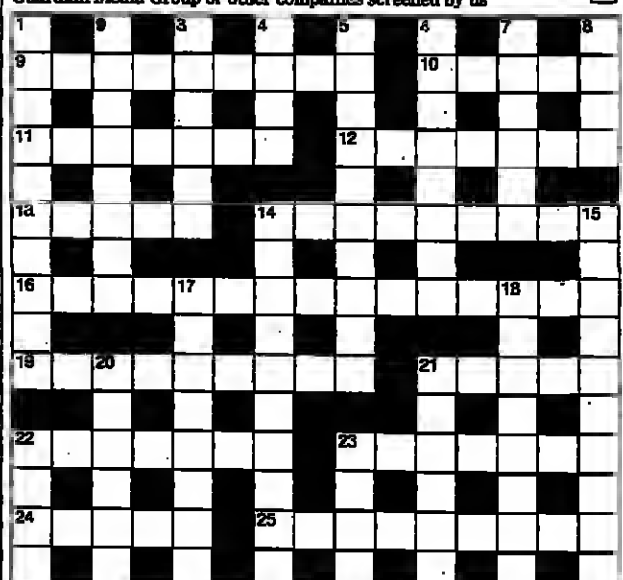
Total (for 4) 130  
Fall of wickets: 2-55, 3-77  
To bat: P G Russell, A R Caslick, D W Hoadley, A G Fraser, P R Tait, R Tait, Brawley Powell 10-3-14-1, Richards 12-7-15-1, Williams 12-6-22-0, Brese 12-6-11-1, Murphy 11-6-20-0, Adams 1-0-4-0.  
Jamaica XI: V Garris, R O Samuels, W Hoadley, J G Adams, M O Ventura, S Briscoe, L R Williams, P A Coley, B B Murphy, P G Harris, O Richards, Wiggins S A Buxton and C Fletcher.

## Guardian COLLINS Crossword 21,174

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Set by Araucaria

Across

9 Casserole with a touch of a touch of the untouchable? (8,6)

10 Authorisation for a relation — of the giraffe (5)

11 A female one's nuts about, subject to inflation (3,4)

12 My ex is a telltale (3,4)

13 Cited for contempt? That would be telling (6)

14 Her true being's holding one to 7 that are left (9)

16 Abusive word to police with their blowers brings disaster (4,3,8)

19 Article in river bed is for wearing in the country (5,4)

21 Clay half loet in river (5)

22 Debris at church causes loud cry (7)

23 River under Roman occupation, if one goes in for word-splitting (7)

24 Note backdrop, or vice versa (5)  
25 Coin-shaped fossil: miners get cross about it (9)

Down

1 Hat among tiles? (7-3)

2 Power may assist the committee (8)

3 Two little houses to 6? (6)

4 See 6

5 See 6

6, 14, 5 11 said Wild Dog's nose was unemployed, as fashion decreed (8,3,7,2,2,4,2)

7 Among the boys that's the girls (6)

8, 4 Where 11 might be handy: if in doubt, rattle it (4,4)

14 See 6

15 Source of oil in the Home Counties? Id., v. diamonds (6,4)

17 See 21 down

18 Hide from pride (4,4)

20 Mistaken in chivalry? (6)

21, 17, 22, 23 11's saying "Mice meet mouse" means dope's being peddled (4,2,3,3,2,8)

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## Dalglish needs to reveal his hidden depths



David Lacey

**K**ENNY DALGLISH is one of football's most successful managers. But just how good a manager he really is will surely be determined by events at Newcastle United between now and the end of the season.

Obviously there would appear to be little at issue. He is one of only four managers who have won championships with different clubs and at Liverpool he completed the Double.

At St James' Park, however, the present situation demands a depth of managerial talent that Dalglish, for all his honours, has yet to reveal. New-

castle have not won in the Premiership for eight matches, not since Sir John Hall stood down as chairman, in fact.

Two points out of 24 is relegation form, and if they fail to beat Bolton Wanderers at home this afternoon even the most ardent Toon will begin to think the unthinkable. Dalglish's team may be seven places above Bolton, who are 18th, but only four points are separating them from the bottom three.

The good news is that Newcastle have a match in hand, the bad that this will be used up on Tuesday when Dalglish takes his players to Anfield to renew acquaintance with a Liverpool side who have just won on Tyneside in league and League Cup.

This is already the worst run of league results Dalglish has experienced in his 13 years of management: far worse than the two wins, four draws and a defeat which preceded his stressful departure from Anfield in 1991, and arguably worse than the six successive defeats suffered by Blackburn

in the spring of 1992 which cost them automatic promotion, leaving Mike Newell to secure a place in the new Premier League with a controversial penalty in the play-off final.

So far the reaction of Dalglish to the impending crisis at St James' has been inauspicious. Wednesday's attack on media critics bore echoes of Kevin Keegan's emotional response to Alex Ferguson's word games two seasons ago when Newcastle's best chance of winning the Premiership was slipping away.

Taken in isolation, the impending transfer of Faustino Asprilla back to Parma might make sound sense. After all, if the Colombian was a questionable asset at £6.7 million he has to be a good sell at much the same price. But Newcastle supporters will add the loss of Asprilla to the departures of Les Ferdinand, Lee Clark and David Clinola and may feel that the attack needs something more to revive it than an antiquated road show of John Barnes and Ian Rush.

The mere presence of Alan

Shearer on the bench this afternoon would lift hearts on and off the field. But how close is Shearer to full fitness, having so recently rubbished speculation that he was about to return to first-team football?

Either way Dalglish not only has to buy now but buy with the sort of judgment he showed at Anfield in 1997 when John Aldridge, Barnes and Peter Beardsley were acquired for amounts which now look like petty cash. He insists that, even without the money for Asprilla, Newcastle have plenty of funds available, but if his answer to the crisis is to offer Everton almost £6 million for Gary Speed then the fans may feel distinctly underwhelmed, much as the Kop was seven years ago when David Speedie turned up from Coventry.

That was shortly before Dalglish's emotional exit left Liverpool with a team in urgent need of turning around. The diligence with which he has applied himself to a similar task on Tyneside

still leaves the awkward question of which way Newcastle will be facing by the time he has finished with them.

Having taken Blackburn from the old Second Division to the league title in four seasons, Dalglish could claim to have succeeded on both sides of the triangle. Jack Walker's millions notwithstanding, but unless his present results improve, St James' Park may yearn for the basic nuts-and-bolts management of men like Joe Kinsman and Dave Bassett.

Or, if it comes to that, Jim Smith, who resigned from the Newcastle job in 1991. There used to be those who doubted whether Dalglish could even manage Hartlepool. Since the latter could not afford his green fees let alone his salary, the question will always be academic. But Brian Clough began at Hartlepool and never regretted the experience. Maybe Dalglish is just beginning to find out what management, real management, is all about. And a lot of it is about not buying less able players than those you sell.



"Victoria Wood wasn't glamorous or apologetic. She takes the piss out of people while being sympathetic to them, and she's very subversive. She takes an average housewife and gives her wild sexual fantasies. I was so encouraged to see women on TV who didn't conform to the Dallas stereotype."

Meera Syal and others discuss their role models

The Week page 18

مكتبة الانجلى